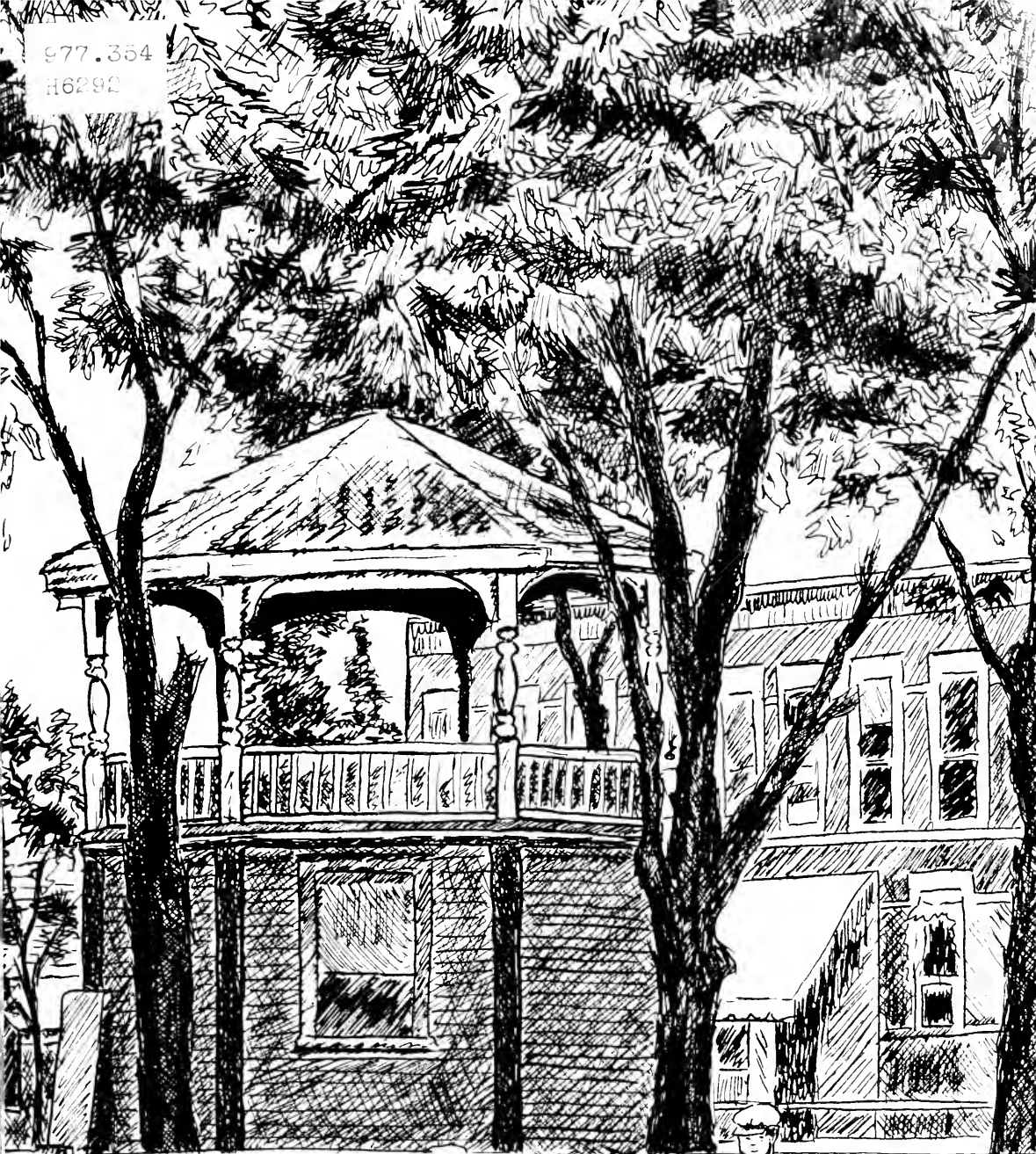
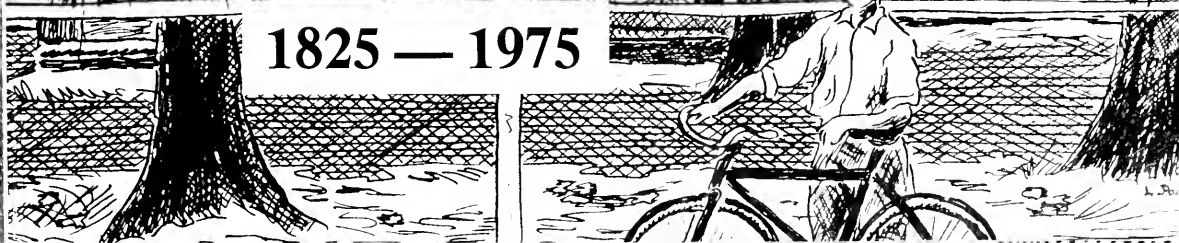


977.354

H6292



1825 — 1975



UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS LIBRARY  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY,**







The per-  
spon-

**HISTORY  
OF  
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
1825—1975**

LIBRARY U. OF I. URBANA-CHAMPAIGN





#### FOREWORD

*On the following pages are recorded the most important happenings in the history of Washington, Illinois. The Story of Washington is dedicated to those who first settled the region and to the people who built this city during the past one hundred-fifty years.*

*This story begins with a small group of people who had foresight; the story is of how an unsettled area one hundred-fifty years ago has been developed into one of the most prosperous small cities in Illinois. The pages that follow contain moments of drama, episodes of mirth, and certainly a veritable flood of glowing memories for Washington's sons and daughters.*

*The citizens of Washington have always been proud of its many physical assests; e.g. schools, churches, businesses, and homes, but the most prized possession is the friendliness and neighborliness of the people. In acknowledging these many assets we must always keep in mind that they are ours because of the Grace of God, and that we are only stewards of our talents and our wealth.*

*Today, Washington is thrusting forward into its dynamic future at an accelerated rate. No longer a little town, it is now a city with unlimited opportunities. The future, in which we have great expectations, will be determined by the foresight, initiative, and combined efforts of all its people.*

*E. Habecker Jr., Mayor*



**T**o the early families who settled in the Washington area we dedicate this book





IN HONOR  
OF  
**WILLIAM HOLLAND**  
FIRST SETTLER  
OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS  
1825

## HISTORY OF WASHINGTON ILLINOIS

**T**he first settlement in the Town of Washington was made in 1825 by William Holland, Sr., who came here from Peoria, then Fort Clark. Prior to his move here, he had built a log house near the present site of the Habecker Funeral Home. He was born in 1780 in North Carolina and was employed in Peoria by the United States Government as a blacksmith for the Indians, who then inhabited this part of Illinois. For several years after settling here, he continued to work for the Indians. His closest neighbor lived ten miles west. He was a good neighbor, and they spent many pleasant hours together exchanging spicy stories and thrilling incidents of their personal adventures. During William Holland's long and eventful life, he was married three times and was the father of twenty-one children, fourteen by his first wife and seven by his second. He had eighty-two grandchildren and fifty great-great grandchildren when he died. Several of his descendants are known to be living in this area at the present time. They are: Mrs. Frances Fish Book, who had three daughters; Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds of Peoria, who had one son; Mrs. Arta Diebel of Flanagan, who had one son; and Mrs. Phyllis Essig of Washington, who had one son and one daughter.

William Holland was also our first mechanic. As such, he carried on a blacksmith shop for several years and also repaired guns not only for the white inhabitants but also for the Indians, who were then numerous in this part of the state.

The first grist mill was built by William Holland in 1827. It was on the Holland homestead, west of his dwelling. It was run by horse-power and was called a "band mill". It was the only one in the neighborhood, its nearest competitor being located at Elkart Grove, 60 miles distant. It consisted of one run of burrs which were procured in Peoria for \$60, and it is thought they were manufactured there. These band mills were an institution in those days. They were a cheap, simple contrivance in fact, but still quite expensive when one con-

siders the small amount of money possessed by those pioneers. The mill consisted of one large wheel, the hub of which was a log of wood eight or ten feet long, hewed eight inches square, set in a perpendicular position, and supported with numerous arms or spokes. The lower end was secured by a pivot, on which it turned, to another timber fastened in the ground, the upper end being secured in like manner to a timber above. The arms or spokes were each supplied with several movable pins and constituted of an adjustable rim upon which the band, made of untanned cow hides cut into strips one and one half to two inches wide and rolled into a rope, was stretched. The band was attached directly to the trundle-head by being wound three times around it — this latter precaution was taken to prevent loss of power by the slipping of the band. The numerous pins in the arms were used to take up the slack caused by the stretching quality of the band. The horse or horses used were attached to levers framed into the hub. They worked under the arms, which were several feet from the ground. The wheel, when ready for use, resembled an enormous clothes reel about forty feet in diameter. The belting was done by hand. The flour produced by this process was a cross between the Extra Quadruple X flour of today and ordinary graham flour and, no doubt, was healthy and nutritious. The owner of the mill did not supply the power — the person using it had to furnish the horses. Many persons came fifty miles to this mill and sometimes had to wait two weeks for their grinding.

In 1834 William Holland, Sr., laid out the original town of Washington, being the part of the present town lying east of Main Street. The first parties to buy these lots were Joseph Kelso, Sr., and Mr. Wagner, who bought three lots each at \$1.50 apiece upon a year's credit. This part of town was heavily timbered, and a great deal of the timber was used in the construction of Kelso and Wagner's houses, which they built in 1834. This same year Styles and Titus Hungerford built the old Sherman house on the site of the old City Building. It was later moved to Washington Street.

In 1826, William Thompson came from Ohio, and William Weeks and John Redman from Indiana. Ira Crosby of New York came and settled on the farm of James R. Crane. George Burrow of Tennessee located on the Peter Scott farm. William Birkett of Lancaster, England, came in 1827; James Harvey, Peter Scott, and William Heath from Ohio in 1829 and 30; and from this time on, the town grew rapidly.

One cannot name all of these first settlers, but they could foresee the wealth of the land and the timber to build their log cabins.

William Holland built the first house and improved the first farm in the vicinity of Washington. The second house was built by William Weeks in the Highland Park addition. (This is to the west of Lincoln St.) Both of these were log cabins. The first frame house was built by John Lindley and used by him as a store room, his having bought the stock of goods brought to town by Dorsey from St. Louis.

Dorsey was one of the active businessmen connected with the growth of Washington. One finds his name figuring in all its earlier enterprises and connected with one of its largest additions. All of these buildings were erected prior to 1835.

Traveling was done on foot or horseback, and hauling principally on sleds. Some of the more ingenious citizens constructed a home-made substitute for a wagon by sawing wheels out of a log of wood and adjusting them to a rude gearing made with an ordinary chopping ax.

The manufacture of tinware was first commenced here in 1848 by Charles S. N. Anthony. Before that time tinware, stoves, and stove pipes were brought here and sold by the merchants.

One of our early banks in Washington was established in 1858 under the name of A. G. Danforth and Co., and is the oldest bank in Tazewell County run continuously under the same firm name. On July 1, 1969, this bank became the First National Bank; and on November 11, 1969, the bank moved from its old location, where the Washington Loan now stands, to its new building on South Main Street.



The Henry Denhart and Co. Bank was established in 1866 and grew rapidly. This bank was on the site of the present **Tazewell County Reporter**, and the Washington State Bank west of town is an outgrowth of this bank.

It can be assumed that land, timber, grain, coal, and stock businesses were responsible for the wealth of early Washington.

Washington had a town organization and was governed by a Town Board of four trustees. The first date in the record is August, 1838. "At a meeting held May 11, 1840, it was ordered that a public well be dug in the Public Square and that it be walled with rock and a pump put in at the same time." Over this pump was built our first bandstand, and in later years the band concerts entertained every Wednesday night in the summer. The stores were open for business for the farm people and town folk alike. The young boys and girls wore their Sunday best clothes and tried to earn enough money during the week for a soda and, if they were lucky, a sack of popcorn as they wound their way around and around the square.

The town of Washington was incorporated under a special act of the legislature of the State of Illinois, passed February 10, 1857.

The first election was held April 16, 1878 and Peter Fifer was elected the first mayor.

The first paper printed in Washington was in 1853 by A. A. Couch and Albert Parker from Peoria and it was called **THE WASHINGTON INVESTIGATOR**. Excerpts from this newspaper in 1858 taken from our Washington Library read:

## New Drug Store

Dr. E. Wenger and Co.

Have just opened a well selected stock of fresh and pure  
Drugs and Medicines

Chemicals, paints, oils, dye stuffs, fancy toilet articles, window glass, tobacco, snuff and cigars. We have erected a new soda fountain, where the thirsty may call to drink freely, all of which we will sell cheap,—for cash—

The first funeral was that of a child of Hansen Thomas. It was buried in the graveyard on the old "Squire Baker" farm (which is thought to be about a mile northwest of town).

The city of Washington celebrated our nation's 100th birthday on July 4, 1876. John W. Dougherty, attorney at law, compiled and read the early history of Washington.

The first physician, Dr. R. F. Goodwin of Vermont, located here in 1832.

Washington knew Abraham Lincoln as a young lawyer stumping the state as a Senatorial candidate. He would come here and chat with loyal Republicans around the Square and very probably stayed overnight here. Citizens met the young Lincoln in the fall of 1858 when he was waging political battle against the experienced incumbent, Sen. Stephen A. Douglas. He came through here on his way to Metamora for the ever-famous debate at the Metamora Courthouse.



Feb. 1900—A few weeks earlier the **News** began the agitation of better streets within the limits of the city. The newspaper proposed that the two principal streets through town should be graveled. Citizens were to be given the opportunity to vote for or against this issue. Issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,000 was recommended.



*Feb. 1900*—Twenty years ago the city was using oil lamps for street lighting and the idea of better fire protection was laughed at. Things have changed in twenty years and we go about at night under the glare of the bright light of the most improved electric lamp, and on every corner stands a fire hydrant. Twenty years ago we who had no well on our premises toted water from the town pump; today it is brought to our very doors at the rate of  $33\frac{1}{3}\epsilon$  per month.



*Jan. 1900*—The telephone exchange starts out with forty-one subscribers and has at least a dozen more to sign.

*April, 1900*—A new coin— $3\epsilon$  piece—has been authorized by act of Congress to take the place of the old coin, which was so much like a dime that its coinage was stopped. The new  $3\epsilon$  piece is ordered to be of nickel, the size of the old bronze cent, only thicker. In the center is to be a hole  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick in diameter so as to make it more easily distinguishable by sight or touch. It will be some time before the new coin will be in circulation.

*May 3, 1900*—Introduction of the perforated milk ticket.

*May 26, 1900*—May pave Square instead of graveling it.



*May 31, 1900*—A meat wagon will make trips through the country every day in the week.

*May 24, 1900*—The handsome new water fountain was placed in position in the Square this week.

*May 31, 1900*—Open air band concerts by the Martini Band.

*June 14, 1900*—Movement is on foot to pave South Main St. from the Square to Denhart's corner, two blocks south.

*July 5, 1900*—Laundry collected and delivered. (Could this have been the Chinese laundry located on Washington St.?)

*July 12, 1900*—Pole tax of \$1.50 applied to the streets and alleys.



*Sept. 20, 1900*—Handsome new bandstand dedicated last Thursday.

*April 25, 1901*—Washington has a lightning calculator in the person of Willie Stong, 16 years of age. He does all his figuring in his mind and with rapidity that would startle the gods. Fractions have no terrors for him, as they are handled just as readily.

*May 2, 1901*—The brick for the street paving have all arrived, and one who has no knowledge of the matter can little imagine the immensity of a pile containing 300,000 bricks.

Bottle delivery for milk started.

*May 23, 1901*—A bill passed by the Illinois Legislature requires that all deaths and births be reported to the county, town or city clerk of the district within 30 days, to take effect 1-1-1902.

*June 13, 1901*—Hitching posts and racks to be replaced around the Square following the recent paving job.



*August 22, 1901*—Several prairie schooners have passed through our town during the past week.

*Oct. 3, 1901*—Bring your jars around and have them filled with fresh rendered lard at the City Meat Market.

*March 6, 1902*—At Tuesday night's council meeting, Chris Ebert was awarded the contract for boring the new city well for \$384.50. It is to be a 10" well and 90 feet deep.

*May 15, 1902*—Electric lights, will put in meters later. All night lights by next fall. Price for a good meter is now \$20 but there is a prospect of a large reduction in their cost. The Eagle Electric Co. would expect the users of light and power to pay a light meter rent sufficient to pay interest on the meters at a rate of no more than 5-10¢ a month for the user.

*Feb. 12, 1904*—Wells Ellis Sr., has this week started a transfer line and will have at the trains a cab for passengers and a team for baggage.

*June 9, 1905*—City Fathers passed curfew ordinance for 15 year olds and younger.

*September 8, 1905*—The Cemetary Association completed an organization on Friday evening.

*April 19, 1907*—Kennedy's famous moving pictures which have become so immensely popular with the people in and around Washington will make its regular fortnightly visit at Danforth's Hall, Saturday evening, April 27.

*March 20, 1908*—Paper Milk Bottle—our town is to have the manufacturing plant—they will put on the market a new sanitary milk bottle; round in shape with a protecting cover inserted in the top. Made of the best quality spruce wood paper and covered with a coating of paraffin. Made in ½ pints, pints, and quarts.

*May 1, 1908*—Washington to go "dry" next Tuesday evening. Saloon licenses expire at that time.

*June 26, 1908*—Ice Cream Factory to be started in town.

*May 28, 1909*—Washington shaken by earthquake about 8:40 A.M. Rattle of dishes, shaking items and some falling of plastering.

*June 25, 1909*—Certified barbering must be able to display to his customers his "paid for" license. Each barber from now on must have attended barber college; worked 3 years as an apprentice; or have been a barber practicing 3 years elsewhere.



*March, 1911*—Fire Fiend destroys plant of Washington Light and Power Co. As soon as possible a transmission line from Peoria will be run and will furnish 24 hour service.

*October, 1911*—Washington sees its first bi-plane. Aviator Redgers, making a flight from the Atlantic to the Pacific, came in to town along the line of the Chicago and Alton R. R. going at a very rapid rate and up several hundred feet. Later news told of finishing his trip for a total of 4,231 miles in 49 days. Airplane very dilapidated at end of trip.

*August, 1912*—Reminiscences of Bygone Days—Henry Jewett remembers when the site of the new Lutheran Church was just a grove of trees and picnics were held in it—another big change was the little park in the business square; John Gorin, then mayor, had Squire Josiah Snyder set out the trees now located there. (Gone now, killed by the Elm disease.) Talk about the high cost of living; things were high then—\$32 a thousand for brick and brick layers were paid \$8 a day for seeing to the job while the workers were paid \$4.50 per day. Squire Snyder built the first walks in town—a wood walk or board walk as they called them in those days—another man recalled how 16 deer came up to his place and he didn't have a gun. Wild turkeys used to be thick, coming in flocks of 75-200. In 1835 there wasn't a house on the prairie between Washington and Eureka.

No stoves until two men went to Chicago with a load of wheat and sold it for 40¢ and brought back the first cookstove and heating stove in the city.

*June, 1913*—Two new stamp books will be put on sale soon by the Post Office Department. One will contain 24 one-cent and 24 two-cent stamps, and the other 99 one-cent stamps, and each will sell at 1¢ over the actual value of the stamps contained therein.

*July, 1913*—Carload of oil arrived yesterday. The committee has worked hard to get this load to give our people a test of using it on our streets. If a little care is used all around, there is no question but our people will be mighty well pleased with the experiment.

Five wagonloads of gypsies passed through Washington Monday and stopped long enough to round up a little trade in fortune telling. The band was on their way to Missouri, where a big meeting of gypsies is to be held to elect a new king. The old king died some time ago.

After 1900 and before the First World War, the town celebrated one week of Chautauqua programs each and



*December 24, 1909*—**The Washington Post**, owned and operated by Paul Goddard, completely burned out, thus losing the files of news dating back many years were lost; also valuable machinery, type and excellent equipment.

every summer. This also was a time for "Homecoming", when old residents or relatives returned to renew old acquaintances and to join in the festivities the town offered at this particular time. The town square was decorated with flags and bunting all around the stores; a tent would be set up where the programs were held—usually in the Lutheran Church yard. There were lectures by well-known men and quartets of fame. On the last night of the week (Saturday night) would be a home-talent play, which made up for the whole week before.



During these years, a real moving pictures show came to town and located on the north side of the square. The name of the theater was the "Lyric". It could rain, hail, thunder, and storm; but the people of Washington (most of them) found their way to the "Lyric" to see the "Perils of Pauline", a serial which was shown week after week—and week after week the film would break or the lights go out, but they sat patiently waiting to see the outcome of Pauline's latest peril.

In the summer months, we had the "Airdome", which was an outdoor movie—you might say the first air-conditioned movie, located at the rear of the old I. Zinser Drug Store. There were benches, bleachers, an electric piano and flowers of all kinds planted to make one feel the coolness of a summer night. The only bad feature was that if a storm came up, one had to run for cover.

*March, 1914*—William Stong in vaudeville—Booked in solid time in Milwaukee. Mr. Stong is to answer all mathematical problems handed to him, and there is to be a \$100 fee deposited at the box office for all correct answers. He and his manager will open at Appleton, Wisconsin, and make a 32 weeks' trip to the coast. According to last Sunday's **Milwaukee Journal**—"a wizard in figures is visiting in Milwaukee and doing astonishing mental stunts!" He can do in his head problems that would take a teacher half a day to solve working with pencil and paper, and he can do them with uncanny rapidity. Stong learned of his marvelous gift when he was 5 years of age and discovered he knew the multiplication tables from 1-12.

*October, 1914*—The 1915 Overland is here—the greatest line ever built, in its price range. Touring car

with electric start and lighting system; side curtains; windshield; rain vision; ventilating; magnetic speedometer; electric horn; robe rail; foot rest; tire carriers in rear; full set of tools; tire repair kit, jack, pump, etc. Priced at \$1075.

*December, 1914*—There is a movement on foot to move the time an hour ahead. We don't know who would be benefited by it, but it would be a great disadvantage to the farmer. It would be much easier to get hired help to quit an hour earlier than it would be to get them out an hour earlier in the morning. The sun and the clocks agree now with slight variations and it would be the greatest folly to separate them an hour.

*December, 1915*—William Stong, the city's mathematical wonder is home from a several month's trip breezing through Indiana and Ohio and the metro city of Chicago and also Milwaukee. He will hang up his stocking in good old Washington.

*January, 1918*—Meatless and wheatless days due to the World War which broke out a year ago.

*November 11, 1918*—Bells of Washington commenced their chimes of glorious peace refrain. From soon after 6 A.M. almost continuously until noon and after noon at various intervals, the bells kept ringing.

Before the First World War, a tent show came to Washington for one week every summer. It was the Jessie Colton Co., a family show, and Washington welcomed them with open arms because we felt they were one of our family. They pitched their tent down in "Shroen's Pasture", which is now Nieu Kirk's Cleaners, and on west. A different play was given each night, and on Saturday night a double feature was given for the price of one admission ticket. It was a sad day when Jessie Colton pulled up stakes and left Washington, but we were happy knowing that she would be back the following summer.

*May 31, 1917*—The new school flag pole raised last Monday and it is ready for the dedication exercises. It is double strength steel pipe, stands 70' above the ground, and on its top is mounted a large bronze ball. The time for dedication and unfurling the flag is fixed to take place on War Registration Day, June 5th.

*June, 1921*—Home Talent Play—On Friday and Saturday, the new organization known as the Washington Dramatic Co. will present their first play, "Deacon Dubb", directed by Mrs. Maona Hood, from Peoria, a former resident of Washington.

*June 30, 1921*—The new fire alarm will be sounded every day at noon with the exception of Sundays to determine whether or not the siren is in perfect working order. In case of fire, the sound will be longer and continuous, running up and down the scale so that there will be no misunderstanding as to whether it is a test or a regular alarm. It is intended to have the alarm sounded from the central office of the Telephone Co., and in all cases of fire, citizens are requested to notify central or the operator.

*November, 1922*—Circulating library, 400 books. Rent charges 15¢ each per week. No membership fee. Open nights.



*July, 1924*—New fire truck will be delivered next Tuesday. Order was placed last March at a cost of \$8,200—a speed of 60 miles maximum and has 1200' of hose.

*August, 1924*—Drug store on wheels started with a full line of drugs, family remedies, veterinarian supplies, toilet articles, and a full line of spices. Prescriptions will be taken by the driver and filled from the store. It will make bi-weekly trips over a ten mile radius.

*November, 1924*—City Building Bond carried by 20 votes—proposition gives the council power to issue bonds to the extent of \$13,000 for re-building and re-modeling the Danforth Hotel for use as a City Building.

*July 30, 1925*—The work of putting in the coping around the Square is nearing completion.

The city of Washington held a Centennial celebration on August 11, 12, and 13, 1925. It was estimated that 16,000 people attended the different events during the three days.



The first day's event was a pageant given in honor of Miss Mary Italin, teacher in primary school for nearly sixty years and who, up to that time, had passed over 1,500 students through her room. Her picture now hangs

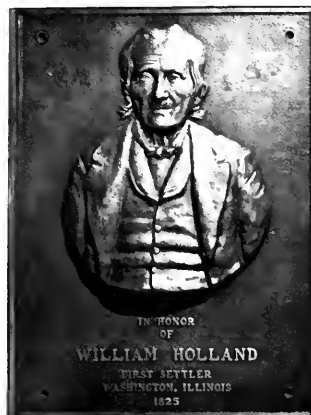
in the lobby of the Washington Grade School. Following the pageant, which did great honor to Miss Mary, she was escorted to our Square where a beautiful terra cotta flower urn, which has since fallen victim to vandalism, was presented to her as a memorial gift of her students.



The remainder of the celebration consisted of addresses by Congressmen and Senators; and a telegram from the President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, was read.

During the next two days, the time was taken up with parades, barbecues, ball games, and other sport events.

*Friday, October 15, 1926*—A bronze memorial to William Holland, purchased by the townspeople, was dedicated. The bronze tablet was imbedded in the brick work on the west side of the bandstand, which has since been razed. However, the bust of William Holland is in safe keeping until a proper spot can be arranged for him.



*December, 1928*—The city of Washington was jolted out of its doldrums when four bold bank robbers held up the Danforth Bank (located where the Washington Federal Savings and Loan now stands) in broad daylight. Three months later, they were arrested.

*March, 1929*—The first chance to develop Washington came when Caterpillar Tractor Company completed arrangements to start on a new expansion program. Thousands more men were to work in East Peoria, and they needed homes. Approximately 7,000 workers were then to be on the payroll.

*October 5, 1933*—One of Washington's worst fires was discovered when Steimle's Drug Store was ruined by fire and water. It was never rebuilt, but the store was moved to the building just north of the destroyed store. A gas station has been on that corner until recently.

*April, 1934*—The old brick around the Square was removed as immense cranes tore up the sidewalks and curbs and hauled them away in wagons.

*November, 1934*—The new school gym at the corner of Walnut and Spruce Streets, which serves now as a gym for the Washington Grade School, was dedicated.

*August, 1936*—The last wooden water main was replaced on North Main Street. Original water mains were put down in 1887, and this was the last one to be replaced with the new ones.

*October, 1936*—A 90-acre farm west of town was sold and was to be called Sunnyland. In this same month Court Drive, off Peoria Street, was platted.

*1938*—Another subdivision west of Washington to be known as Beverly Manor was platted.

*September, 1938*—The city applied for a grant for a disposal plant. The estimated cost was \$90,000, but the city's share was \$49,000. A P. W. A. grant was to take care of the needs of the city for many years to come. Work included storm and sanitary sewers.

*Summer, 1939*—A new addition was created northwest of the TP & W R.R. tracks to be known of Brookhill addition and the next year another addition, known as Washington Knolls, almost adjacent to Brookhill. An extension of Brookhill is Birchwood Drive.

*January, 1941*—Work was progressing on street markers and house numbering. City delivery was to begin next year.

The population then was 2,456.

*October, 1942*—There was a new nursing home in the former Harms property at the corner of South Main and Catherine Streets.

*November 20, 1942*—The high school dedication was held tonight.

*May, 1943*—The Lasance Hospital opened at a new location—moving from the corner of South Main and Catherine Streets to the former Reyburn home or the H. R. Danforth residence on South Main Street.

*June, 1943*—A resuscitator was purchased for the use of the community. It will be kept at the Lasance Hospital while not in use.



At one time during the years of the Second World War prisoners of war were fenced in down at the old Dickinson Canning Factory.

Willow Bend, in the southeast corner of the city, was opened.

*February, 1946*—Buddy Boy Taxi opened for business.

*January, 1948*—Fire gutted the Hirstein Building in the first block of North Main Street. The Hirsteins rebuilt—they lived upstairs and below is Em's Beauty Bar.

*Summer, 1948*—The city purchased the first squad car to be used by our police.

*December, 1948*—The Washington Chamber of Commerce began the Welcome Basket Project to call on new residents and present them with gifts from local cooperating merchants and information concerning the facilities and other details of interest about the community.

*1948*—Work was begun on the new \$145,000 Lincoln Grade School, north of town.

*November, 1950*—The Lasance Hospital re-opened as a Nursing Home under the management of Mrs. Max Baltz. The hospital had been closed since late March.



1950—The population was 5,919.

Construction was started on the sewage disposal plant for Washington.

July, 1952—The new fire house got underway as volunteer donations aided in the project. To \$20,000 in contributions were an additional \$59,000 contributed in labor and materials. It was located at the corner of West Jefferson and North Main Streets. The fire trucks were formerly kept at Reed's Garage, now an auto body business.

Within the next month, the premier showing of homes in the Devonshire Estates, another new sub-division north of town, occurred.

July, 1955—Edgewood addition, south of town, was opened.

1958—Oakwood addition was opened.

May 1, 1958—The worst fire in 22 years destroyed the Rexall Drug Store. It burned with a \$75,000 loss. It was rebuilt and used as a drug store until the Spring of 1974, when Dr. Antony, a new doctor, came to town and used the building as his office.

July 9, 1959—The bandstand in the center of the square that was "born" in 1879 was torn down.

July 16, 1959—A new city well was drilled.

October, 1959—One of the city's oldest buildings was torn down this month, the old Tobias building on the southeast corner of the square which used to be the blacksmith shop. This is the present site of the Tally-Ho restaurant.

January 21, 1960—A new police radio which enables the department to contact city, county, and state officials within a radius of 30-50 miles of the town, was installed in the police car.

March, 1960—General Telephone Co. announced local area dial conversion dates—possibly next year.

April, 1960—Tombstones were found in a garden plot at 121 South Elm Street, the oldest bearing the death date of J. Harvey, August 16, 1839.

September, 1960—Another old building went down—the old Sullivan building located in the southeast corner of the square, by the alley, a parking lot now.

March, 1961—The Emergency Squad formation was announced by ten local men. They will work with the Police Department.

July, 1961—Washington sent its first contestant to the Miss Illinois Pageant. Dorothy Essig competed but failed to place in the top ten finalists.

November, 1961—The telephone company changed over to dial type telephones.

May 30, 1963—The new fountain and lights in the square, which was sponsored by the Garden Club and public donation, started operating tonight. Dedication was the following day.



April, 1964—The fountain in the Square was a state winner in civic improvement contest held for the State of Illinois.

November, 1964—A new flag and pole in the Square was presented to the city by the American Legion.

October, 1965—Heyl Pony Farm closed out its business after 60 years of raising and showing Shetland ponies.



June, 1967—Miss Amy Blumenshine went to Washington, D. C. as the Spelling Bee champion of central Illinois. She ranked 13th in the nation.

July, 1967—Roehm's Shoe Store, possibly the oldest business house on the Square, was razed. It was a frame building and was operated continuously by one family, passing from one generation to the other. The lot, at the present time, is vacant.



1967—The Sweitzer brothers, Fred and Willard, donated a strip of land off North Main Street, near Farm Creek, to the city.

August, 1967—Washington Knolls, in the east part of town was opened as a sub-division.

September, 1968—Flouride was added to city water.

June, 1969—Moving day was the 12th of June for all offices of the city to the new City Building on Jefferson Street.

July, 1969—The new colonial style Washington State Bank opened for business west of town.



August, 1969—A contract for the construction of an addition to the Township Library let, which included repairs to the present building.

April, 1970—The residents voted in the new sewage treatment plant.

April, 1970—Earthmoving machines growled as they formed a parking lot and the beginning of a new permanent campus about 8 miles west of Washington, to be named Illinois Central College.

April, 1970—Washington Woman's Club bought and decorated furnishings for the new City Building—Colonial reproductions, pictures, the Declaration of Independence,—to make an attractive interior for the early American architecture.

Equipment was moved in and surveying begun for the construction of Lincoln Street through Washington Park.

July, 1970—The city annexed Beverly Manor, the Felkner addition west of town, and also a part of Hillcrest. Washington grew by 1,000 people.

Assistant Postmaster Alvin Staudenmaier retired after 33 years of service. William Lippert became Postmaster.

February 18, 1971—A strip of land near North Lawndale was donated to the city by Mr. and Mrs. Glen Weaver. The place became known as Weaver Park. The park contained a beaver dam, and there were many areas to be used as nature trails.

February 25, 1971—Sandy's (now Hardee's) built a restaurant at the corner of route 24 and Wilmor Road.

April 8, 1971—"Man against Beaver-Residents of Wagner Place" complained that beavers had dammed Farm Creek so that it was overflowing its banks and had become a hazard.



July 22, 1971—From the Washington Association of Commerce; Corridor A for the north route of route 24 By-Pass was the best.

July 22, 1971—18 year olds were given right to vote.

August 12, 1971—Kentucky Fried Chicken business was to open in about 3 months. It was to be adjacent to Hardee's restaurant.

August 19, 1971—The building of Heritage House Apartments on North Main Street was begun.

October, 1971—Plans were made for an apartment complex development on Route 24 west of town.

A new ice skating rink was planned for the rear of the City Hall.

November 12, 1971—SAVED! The rare Purple Beech tree in front of Lindy's new grocery store would not be cut down after all the protests from the Town and Country Garden Club, petitions from the grade and high schools, and a recommendation from a former director of the Illinois Department of Conservation who studied the situation. This tree was on the former George Ferner lot.



*November 4, 1971*—City Council and Washington Association of Commerce were to help finance the study and plan for the beautification of Washington. It included plans for landscaping, remodeling of businesses and land use.



*January 6, 1972*—The **Tazewell County Reporter** moved to the Heiple Building at 101 Washington Square, formerly occupied by the Washington State Bank.

*January, 1972*—The City Council purchased a site for a new sewage treatment plant southwest of the city.

*January, 1972*—A new piece of equipment was purchased to enable the Washington Rescue Squad to give faster service to the Police Department. The radio operator could broadcast directly to the Rescue Squad members through their personal receiving units.

*January 30, 1972*—The beavers were to be moved to Forest Park Foundation in Peoria.

*February 10, 1972*—A summary report of building permits issued in Washington during 1971 revealed that \$305,000 in commercial structures and \$808,000 in new residential buildings were constructed last year.

*March 23, 1972*—The Square beautification program was discussed.

*March 30, 1972*—Miss Beth Alexander was crowned Miss Tazewell County.

*April 6, 1972*—Washington's first City Administrator, Mr. Rod Clausen, was hired.



*April 6, 1972*—The newly organized Washington President's Club held its first meeting on March 28, in the City Building. The purpose of the organization was to coordinate the efforts of area groups for their mutual benefits.

*April 6, 1972*—Tickets were on sale for the Guy Lombardo concert at the high school, sponsored by the Band Booster Club.



The Park Board, which was originated in 1968, was instrumental in obtaining the Neptune Swim Club as a public pool. They have accomplished many good things for our community.

*June 1, 1972*—The Washington Library was to be completely remodeled and refurnished at no extra cost to the taxpayers.

The Nursing Center at 1110 Newcastle Road built apartments adjacent to the Nursing Home. Each apartment was to have a "hook-up" with the central office.

*September, 1972*—The corridor for the Route 24 By-Pass was approved by all State and Federal agencies.

*October 19, 1972*—Mrs. Ogilvie, the Governor's wife, visited Washington. A reception was given her in the Washington Square.

*January 25, 1973*—A and P Grocery Store was to go out of business in February.

A new shopping center, Valley Forge, was announced to be ready the following summer. The location was just west of the Washington State Bank. The first building in line was to be the Cinema, then the Gingerbread House, the Closet; next was Mr. Steve's Beauty Salon and Merle Norman Cosmetics.

Hillcrest plaza, just west of the A and W Restaurant, was to house Cel-Este Ltd., a ready-to-wear business; Genesis II a beauty salon; Heights Finance; and Men's Barber Shop.

Washington State Bank celebrated its 25th anniversary.

*February 15, 1973*—Governor Dan Walker was here for the Washington Day Banquet.

*March 8, 1973*—City Council made a decision for Peoria Street to be widened.

Pine Lakes sub-division and Rolling Meadows were annexed to Washington.



*March 15, 1973*—A roller skating rink was to be built off Washington Road.

*March 29, 1973*—Ron Gregg was named the new Park Superintendent.

*June 21, 1973*—The Tazewood Art League sponsored a Fair on the Square. It was an opportunity to see what the area artists can do.

*July 5, 1973*—The house at 106 Washington Street was torn down, the space to be used as a parking lot.

*August 2, 1973*—The application by the Rescue Squad for an ambulance grant was permitted.

*August 9, 1973*—Miss Beth Alexander was crowned Miss Heart of Illinois.



The City Council took action on licensing and registering bicycles in the city. The police would have the number and name of each bicycle, which would help the many cases of stolen bicycles.

*August 23, 1973*—The Highview Hills Country Club west of town opened its golf course and food service.

Peoria Street was ready for resurfacing and widening.

*August 23, 1973*—The Grand Opening of Valley Forge Shopping Center occurred.



*August 30, 1973*—The water filtration phase of the new city sewer plant neared completion.

*Sept., 1973*—The Grand Opening of Hillcrest Shopping Center was held.



*Sept. 27, 1973*—The Jaycees planned a \$10,000 playground project for the Park District.



*October 11, 1973*—Construction was begun on a new vocational-technical addition to Washington High School.

The Washington Business Council's Fall Festival neared its two-day run between Valley Forge and Washington State Bank.

*October 25, 1973*—Local merchants slated a "Moonlight Madness" sale from 9 - 10:50 P.M.

*November 29, 1973*—The Nativity scene was raised in the Washington Square to remind passing motorists and shoppers of the Yuletide season.

Fourteen women began canvassing the city for census taking to see how large Washington has grown since 1970.

*December 6, 1973*—The Firehouse was making room for the expected city ambulance which was to arrive this month.

Santa was visiting the Square every night this week.

On December 18 and 19 more than 13 inches of snow fell in our area.

*January 3, 1974*—Judge James Heiple swore in new members of the City Council. They were: Don Gronewold, alderman; Bob Summer, alderman; Virginia Tully, city clerk; Ed Habecker, mayor; Arden Muller, alderman; Al Swinehart, alderman; and Vince Baker, city treasurer.



Voters approved a \$1.5 million referendum to upgrade, renovate, and add to the high school.

Drivers could now turn right on the red light. The new law came into effect January 1, 1974. Drivers had first to stop and yield to pedestrians or on-coming cars.

*January 10, 1974*—A branch office of Child and Family Service of the Peoria area opened officially this week in Trader's Realty office on Washington Road.

There was a scarcity of gas, and it was rumored that we may have gas rationing before March first.



The First National Bank erected a new time and temperature sign at the front of their bank.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Census, Washington's population as of November 27, 1973, grew to 9,466. The amended census in 1970 showed 7,722.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Feb. 1919*—Eugene Zinser was ten years of age last week and some of his relatives helped celebrate by coming in to supper.

The first marriage in the Washington neighborhood was in 1828 when Daniel Meek, a justice of peace from Waterloo, united James Hendricks and Sallie Redman.

Saturday, April 29, 1899 the Santa Fe will sell round trip tickets to Chicago for \$2.00, leaving Washington at 8:03 A.M. and arriving in Chicago at 12:35 P.M. You don't leave Chicago until Monday, May 1, at 1:00 P.M. Baggage and bicycles checked on these tickets.

On Thursday, April 6, 1899 eight inches of snow were slowly disappearing and on Thursday, the 13th, just one week later, the thermometer registered 82 degrees in the shade. As a climate wonder, ours certainly takes the cake.

J. R. Gott, a well known railroad man, moved to Washington in 1883. Dr. W. A. Gott was his oldest son.

Frank B. Hungerford with J. J. Wright operated the Standard Grocery Store.



*January 31, 1974*—Washington's new ambulance arrived here for service to the residents of the city.

Westlake, a sub-division west of town, was annexed to the city in 1974.

It is evident that William Holland, Sr., was a generous and a cheerful giver. He gave us the ground for both the Primary and the Washington Grade School and their playgrounds, which would indicate that he was a firm believer in education. He gave us our first cemetery. He gave us our City Square, which the Garden Club has so beautifully planted and cared for and which makes Washington unique in comparison with other small towns in the area. We cannot help but wonder what William Holland, Sr., would think of his town were he to come back and visit us today.

*February 17, 1949*—Approximately 100 attended the Washington Civic club's ladies night program held Tuesday evening in the clubrooms above the Danforth bank, making it an outstanding event of this year's activity.

*October, 1899*—Roehm Bros. & Co. in an advertisement: "Gentlemen: Tired feet are not necessary if you wear the "F. & B." Shoes made up for us under our own firm name; all sizes, black and colored. Sole agency for Washington, Illinois." The prices range from \$3.00 for Box Calf (welt) to \$4.50 for men's best H. H. imported enamel F. & B. shoes.

*October, 1899*—Henry Denhart & Co., Bankers, of Washington have an ad which states — "Money to loan at 5 percent on Real Estate, with privilege to repay part or all before due and stop interest on amount so paid. Deposits in sums of ten cents and upwards received in our Savings Bank, and interest allowed thereon every six months."

William Mosley purchased and homesteaded Lots 4 & 5, Block 7 in Holland, Dorsey, Wathen & Robinson Addition, original town of Washington. He purchased the lots for \$300.00, February 3, 1894.

# BITS AND PIECES OF OUR CITY AND RURAL AREA HISTORY

**T**he Fiftieth Anniversary of American Independence was celebrated by our fathers with special interest. The author of the Declaration, then in the 84th year of his age, was invited to be present at the celebration in Washington City. This is his answer to the invitation.

## THOMAS JEFFERSON'S LETTER

*Respected Sir: The kind invitation I received from you on the part of the citizens of Washington, to be present with them at the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of American Independence, as one of the surviving signers of an instrument, pregnant with our own, and the fate of the world, is most flattering to myself and heightened by the honorable accompaniment for the comfort of such a journey. It adds sensibly to the sufferings of sickness to be deprived by it of a personal participation in the rejoicings of to-day. But acquiescence is a duty, under circumstances not placed among those we are permitted to control. May that day be to the world what I believe it will be (to some parts sooner, to others later, but finally to all), the signal of arousing men to burst the chains, under which monkish ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind themselves, and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights and an undiminished devotion to them.*

*Th. Jefferson."*

## THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY

It is said the Negro slaves in the south were first encouraged to escape to Canada and freedom by returned soldiers of the War of 1812 who were friendly to their cause. There developed from this a more or less organized movement by various church groups and Abolitionists who helped conceal and convey them northward. Nearly all of the states in the eastern part of the country had "stations" along the route to Canada. In Elm Grove township a Mr. Mathews was a "conductor". In Morton township Uriah Crosby held that title. In Washington township there is a farm now owned by the Dorward family two and one half miles south and a mile or so east from the City of Washington where there was also a "station". The "conductor" was J. Randolph Scott who owned the farm at that time. Many people may remember Miss Emma J. Scott and her sister, Mrs. George Tobias, daughters of Mr. Scott, who was born in 1812 and died in 1894.

Queen Victoria of England helped the cause by decreeing that all such fugitives who made it over the border would be recognized as British subjects. It is estimated that about 75,000 Negro slaves escaped to the "Promised Land" in that fashion.

John Adams, then also on a sick bed at Quincy, Mass., and in the 91st year of his age, was asked for a toast for the coming Semi-Centennial Day. He replied: "I will give you—Independence Forever". Both of these illustrious signers of the Declaration of Independence passed from earth on the very day in the gladness of which they were invited to participate.

Material taken from History of Washington, Illinois, and Its Early Settlers. Published in 1876.

*"Monticello, June 24th, 1826.*

## HOLLANDS GROVE

Hollands Grove was so named because a large part of the territory received by William Holland from the government lay in this vicinity. Mackinaw is credited with being the oldest settled area in Tazewell county, yet Attorney Ben L. Smith found on research that his ancestor, named Railsback, Mackinaw's first settler, spent his first winter in these parts in Hollands Grove. This section of the country was, as early as we have record, dotted with log cabins occupied by Irish wood cutters, who worked at hewing out railroad ties from the timber growing here. This done, they moved on, no doubt to become aldermen or policemen in some city. Then came the German immigrants, who cleared the land and built farm homes.

The center of the community was the church, a branch of what was later the Evangelical United Brethren. The church was first a log building, then a quite modern building at the corner of Grange and Hollands Grove Roads. This stood until the merger with the Washington congregation. Then the buildings were sold, the church being purchased by a Mr. Patee and made into a barn. This farm is now a part of the Caterpillar Proving Grounds. The parsonage was purchased by Sam LaConte

and moved intact to his place where it is now occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wenger. The pastor here also served the parishes of Farmdale, Spring Bay, and Black Partridge.

The church had a very fine bell, which was given to and is now used by the Low Point church. It was the custom, when a death occurred, to rush the news, via horseback, to the pastor who would thereupon toll the bell; first, one peal for an adult, two for a child. Then the bell would peal out the years of age of the deceased, one by one. Also, on the day of the funeral, it was the custom to toll the bell, beginning when the cortege was sighted from the church steeple, continuing until the procession reached the church. The church also established Holland Grove Cemetery and maintained it until it was turned over to a Board of Trustees.

While on the subject of bells, each farm home had a dinner bell; and the horses on the farms learned the tone of their bell, and when it rang, it was next to impossible to get that team past the entrance to the field in order to plow another round.

The Busch meeting, of a revival nature, was an annual affair. As there were no sanitary facilities of a permanent nature, the local pastor on opening day would announce: "In order to avoid any confusion, the sisters will use the hollow on the right and the brothers the hollow on the left". Some of the youth had beforehand rolled a number of large round rocks to the edge of the hollow to the left. Then in a rest intermission, they rolled the rocks down the hill. The scene was soon enlivened by preachers, shirt tails fluttering, dashing madly from tree to tree to get out of range. Fortunately, no one was hurt but the sermons the rest of the day bore down heavily on the sins of this "untoward generation".

Also let us note the time when a church meeting was in progress on the same night a couple of boys decided to try out their new homemade box kite in a field next to the church. They sent it up with a lighted lantern tied to its tail. In the course of the meeting, one of the men went outside to see if his horse was tied or something. He noticed a light like a star, behaving like no decent star should act, swinging and gyrating wildly. He went in and told what he had seen. The meeting was adjourned and all came out to see this phenomenon. It was agreed that it was some sort of a sign and that they had best go home and await its meaning. It is said that one prominent member of the congregation spent the night under the bed among the crockery.

One indication of the character of the people was the fact that money was loaned to the amount of even one or two thousand dollars without a note being signed, only a verbal promise to repay. There was no case ever noted where this promise was not met to the letter.

The main cash crops of this locality in the early days were wheat and clover seed. Names of families prominent in those days were Dingledine, Grosenbach, Goebel, Hoelscher, Vogelsang, Keil, Blumenshine, List, Christ, and others, no doubt, whose names do not occur to the

writer at present. Of the Dingledines, they were among others who hauled wheat to Chicago with teams and brought back sawed lumber, in this instance to finish their home, which was probably the first to be of other than the ordinary log type.

Also, there is still a house standing which in the second story had a large room built for the purpose of serving as a Mennonite Church meeting place. Families attending there were Schrock, Augsburgers, Schick and Guth. Other early names were Muench, now Minch, and Riech, now Rich. Few of these names remain, their descendants have gone on to business or professions or to engage in farming in other parts of the country.

## COOPER STATION

Many people do not realize that Cooper was once quite a "metropolis". For some years before the turn of the century and after there was a grain elevator there operated as part of a chain owned by Roberts, Moschel and Mosinian of Morton. It extended north and south along the Santa Fe Railroad. Mr. Frank Sully managed the elevator for them. He was also the Railway Station agent as well as the Western Union Telegraph operator and the agent for the Wells Fargo Express Company. Cooper also had a post office. J. M. Cooper was the postmaster and guess who he got to run it for him. None other than Frank Sully. The Sully family also had a grocery store and the post office occupied a part of the store.

There was also a blacksmith shop operated for a time by Johnny Potts, an Englishman, who was formerly a sailor in the British Merchant Marine. Mr. Potts manufactured hayracks and other farm equipment as needed by the people of the community. When he moved to Deer Creek, Noah Garber took over the shop.

In the early 1900's the farmers organized and bought the elevator from the Morton firm. Ed Marshall, manager of the elevator, developed quite a livestock shipping point. He coaxed the Santa Fe to stopping their north bound morning freight train at Crandall Station. Then the locomotive came up to Cooper to take the loaded stock cars down to Crandall for transfer to the New York Central tracks and a quick trip to the Peoria Stockyards. This plan was a great success until motor trucks came into use. Since then Cooper has dwindled to just an elevator.

In the early days at the Cooper school there was quite a tragedy. Peter Sweitzer was a young pupil of teacher, William Phillips, who was a son of one of the earliest settlers, Alfred Phillips. Mr. Phillips had also a pupil named Beal who evidently was punished for some wrongdoing and his father swore he would get even. Mr. Phillips was prepared for him when he came as he had a pistol in his desk drawer. When Beal approached the schoolhouse, Phillips took the pistol and went out to meet him. He pushed Beal up against the wall, put his pistol up against him and fired. Beal was dead and young Sweitzer was sent to the well for a basin of water

to wash up the blood. Strange to say Phillips was not indicted for the killing as public opinion was on his side.

There were two brick schoolhouses, the first one replaced by the second in 1896 which is still in existence, but now used as a residence. Many of the pupils went on to college and university. One, Frank Cooper, even graduated from Harvard Law School. Another institution connected with the school was the weekly literary society meeting held there and participated in by grown-ups as well as the younger fry.

In the early 1900's the farmers of the community decided they wanted telephones. So they procured some white oak poles and set them themselves. Mr. Frank Sully procured the wire and phones for them. He also made the wet batteries and established a central station in his home. By these means the Cooperites could talk to Washington and other places. Each phone had a call signal based on the Morse Code symbol for the first letter of the owner's surname. So when a person made a call he had to use the proper symbol. Needless to say anyone on the line could listen in so there were no secrets confided over the phone.

## THE DICKINSON CANNERY

The first development of the canning industry at Washington began in 1898 when Roger B. Dickinson bought land for this enterprise. The ground was broken in 1909 under supervision of his sons, Eugene and Richard Dickinson.

A reprint from the **Washington Post** of February 10, 1910, reads as follows:

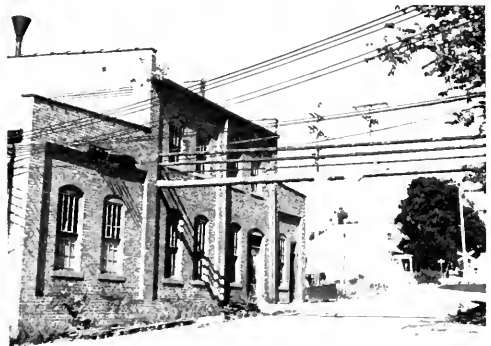
"As some of the buildings for the new Dickinson canning factory are nearing completion, our people are commencing to realize what a big plant the factory will make when completed. It is by far the biggest thing that ever came to Washington. It means an expenditure of from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in money and in giving employment of from thirty to fifty men all through the winter and probably until the canning season in the fall when several hundred will be employed."

As the business continued to grow, the cannery packed an increasing volume of peas, corn, and pumpkin.

In 1929 the company was sold by the Dickinson's to Libby, McNeill and Libby. Robert Dickinson continued with the firm as resident manager of seven canning plants. He now resides at 401 South Main, Washington.

During the later part of World War II about 250 German prisoners, captured during the African campaign, were quartered in the back part of Libby's warehouse. Libbys had contracted for the prisoners' labor at fifty cents an hour and of this, each prisoner personally received ten cents per hour. Army guards from Camp Ellis were in charge. The prisoners were under a German S.S. officer, had their own kitchen, PX, barber, and

movies. Father Schubert of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and Pastor Kammeyer of St. Mark's Lutheran Church conducted services regularly for them.



The prisoners, mostly age thirty or above, were willing workers. About twenty-five percent of them were highly skilled machinists, blacksmiths, electricians, and horologists. They sang as they marched.

Work parties, with their Army guards, left the plant by Libby bus to snap sweet corn in the fields, work in the pea vineries, or in the canneries in Eureka and Morton. The prisoners worked side-by-side with U.S. civilians. Locally Libbys also canned fruit cake. Some of the peas, corn, pork, applesauce, and fruit cake were canned for the Army and Red Cross. Area farmers could arrange to use work parties. The cannery is not in use anymore, but some of the buildings are still standing at the west end of Holland Street.

The following material was taken from Collier's Magazine May 16, 1953. The story of Reinhold Pabel, "Prisoner of War Escape".

"From January 2, 1945, until early September, 1945, I (Reinhold Pabel) was held in prisoner-of-war camps at Camp Grant, Fort Sheridan and Camp Ellis, all in Illinois. During this period, I accumulated about \$15 in American money by selling my medals and war souvenirs to guards. I also bought a white sport shirt and a package of blue dye from a guard; I told him I wanted to color a pair of GI khaki pants for use in a play staged by a group of prisoners. After these purchases, I had \$10.20 left. Early in September, 1945, I was transferred from Camp Ellis to Camp Washington, near Peoria. Washington was a small camp holding about 200 prisoners who were working in a corn cannery.

On the morning of September 10th, after answering eight-o'clock roll call, I went to my tent and put on my white sport shirt and blue-dyed pants; then I strolled along the barbed wire fence. Out of the corner of my eye, I watched the guard in the sentry tower. When he turned his back, I ducked through the skimpy fence and into a clump of trees.

The prison stockade was about fifty yards from a highway and traffic was fairly heavy. Concealed from the camp by the trees, I started waving my thumb. Within two minutes, a farmer driving a truck picked me up. In those days, it was considered patriotic to pick up hitchhikers. I found the bus station. At the ticket window I only uttered one word: "Chicago?". The ticket seller said "Eleven thirty", and I was on my way to Chicago.

Only ten days after his escape he walked into the Social Security Administration office in Chicago and applied for a Social Security number. The clerk who helped me to fill out an application blank asked: "What's your name?" I thought fast. Phillip was a familiar name both in Europe and the United States and would match my accent. I cast my eyes about the office the word BRICK stared at me in big black type from an advertisement on a calendar hanging on the wall. "Phillip Brick," I said.

He was a former noncommissioned officer of the 115th Panzer Grenadiers of the German First Army. He had been taken prisoner on October 13, 1944. For almost eight years after that, he lived openly in Chicago under the name of Phillip Brick. He washed dishes in restaurants, set pins in a bowling alley, clerked in a bookstore and worked in the circulation department of the Chicago Tribune while accumulating the \$450.00 it took to open his own bookstore. He courted and married an American girl. They had a son. Six months after his escape he filed his first American income-tax. He filed every year under name of Phillip Brick. He was arrested in the back room of his bookstore, after he had been at liberty for almost eight years. If deported he hoped he would be able to return to the United States some day." We were unable to find out what became of Reinhold Pabel.

## WASHINGTON HOMES



212 S. Main  
White Funeral Home in winter  
Former home of Henry Denhart



121 S. Cedar  
Present owner John Williams  
Original owner Charles Holland

Built 1934



Remodeled in Summer of 1974—White Funeral Home



116 S. High  
Present owner Mrs. Ella Hartman  
Original owner—Witte Kern



121 S. High  
Present owner John Kent  
Original owner—John P. Wrenn

1886



119 S. Cedar  
Present owner Mrs. June Kyes Robertson  
Original owner—Mr. David Kyes



205 S. High  
Present owner John R. Eppelheimer  
Original owner—Rev. E. Von Freedom

1893



200 S. High  
Present owner Mrs. Ethel Storey  
Original owner—E. E. Heiple

1890



121 S. Elm  
Present owner P. Cagle  
Original owner—W. B. Harvey



301 Eldridge  
Former W. S. Norris home



114 E. Holland  
Present owner Robert P. Adams  
Built for Ben Tobias

1870-1876



518 S. Elm  
Present owner Richard Roth  
Former John Belsly home

1874



706 Peoria St.  
Owned by Muller Estate



604 Catherine St.  
Present owner Ron Dingleline  
Former owner—W. A. Pfeiffer

1870



208 Peoria St.  
Present owner Walter Wind  
Former owner—Mr. E. C. ...



311 S. Main  
Present owner Wilson Kimmell  
Former owner—C. V. Miles



706 E. Holland  
Apartment House  
Former home of Henry F. Heiple

1890?



108 Catherine  
Present owner Robert Garber  
Original owner—E. E. Heiple  
Built before 1890



721 W. Jefferson  
Present owner Mrs. Harley Heyl  
Former home of George W. Bayler



127 S. Main  
Present owner Mrs. Richard Magee  
Built for H. D. Harms in 1896



120 W. Holland  
Present owner Edward Essig  
Built for Asa Danforth



106 W. Holland  
Haubecker-Mason Funeral Home  
Built for A. G. Danforth



102 E. Holland  
Former Washington Nursing Home



811 N. Main  
Heyl Pony Farm



310 S. Main  
Present owner Kent Mac  
Built for Elijah Chaffer



125 S. Main  
Present owner Rae Guth  
Original owner—Z. A. Whitehill



123 S. Main  
Built by Julius Roehm





106 S. Market  
Owned by Warren Flowers



114 Burton St.  
Owned by Ben Dubois



110 S. Market  
Owned by Lida List



108 S. Cedar  
Occupied by Vaunie Gresham



504 S. Main  
Bradle Estate—Owned by  
George Myers about 1900



402 S. Main



500 S. Main  
Present owner Mrs. Theresa Bradle  
Built for Charles S. Birkett



105 Washington St.  
Built 1858 or '68 by a Mr. Dixon  
Home of first mayor—Mr. Fifer. Owned by Dr. H. A.  
Zinser. Now Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Martini



700 S. Main  
Owned by Dewey Atterberry

\*\*\*\*\*

*January, 1924*—C. J. Schmaltz had quite a surprise when he found a man's clothing, good as new, in his hay loft recently. No clue as to how they got there.

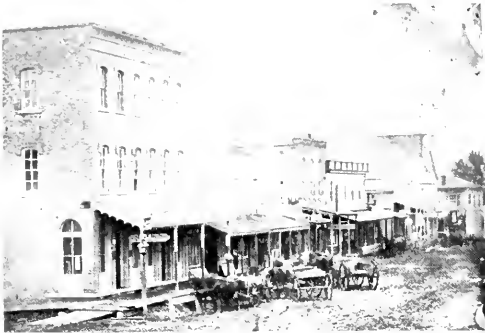
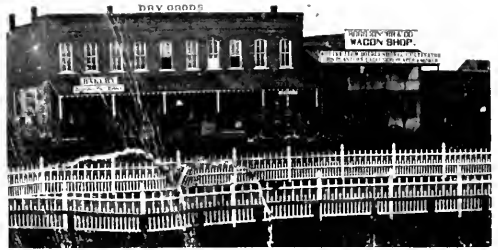
*October, 1924*—The Lyric Theater will reopen its doors to the people of Washington with the pledge of its manager, Mr. F. B. North, that only the best pictures will be shown for the screen entertainment of the Lyric's patrons.

*January, 1924*

L. E. RUDY  
AUTO PAINTING  
and  
TOP and CURTAIN  
REPAIRING

Phone 118

North Side Early 1880's



West Side Early 1880's

## WASHINGTON SQUARE OVER THE YEARS



# EARLY 1900's



South Main Street 1907



North Side Early 1900's



1910-1911 North Side



North Side 1900's



Center of Square 1900's



Center of City Square



East Side



Northwest Side



South Side



North Side and East Side of North Main



East Side

# EARLY 1940's



Southeast Side



South Main St.



Center of Square



North Side

1950's



Heiple Building



# 1960's



North and East Side



North Side



South Side and South Main



East Side and Walnut St.





West Side and North Main



West Side and Peoria St.



SEPTEMBER  
1974



Center of Square



South Main Street



East Side North Main Street



North Side



South Side



Northeast Side



East Side



West Side North Main Street



Walnut Street



Center of Square



Peoria Street

## BUSINESS HOUSES AROUND THE SQUARE 1974

Washington Autobody, 126 North Main St. started in business on October 1, 1966. David Bearden bought the building from the Reed brothers, Willard and Gervin. In the early twenties the Reeds bought the building from Charlie Zimmerman.

Herbst Company, 118 North Main St. originated April 1, 1942. The building was purchased from Strubhar Hardware business. R. G. Herbst spread north taking in three buildings and it was then a furniture store operated by Mr. Herbst and then by his son George.

Bob's True Value Hardware store at 108-110 North Main St. is owned by Robert Klings. Klings has been in business since January 1, 1965. Henry Esser built the building in 1920 and it was used as a grocery store, operated by Fred Muller — also, Johnny Leonard started his bakery at this place and Henry Ganzhorn set up a shoe repair shop in a portion of the building. Later, Ben Franklin Store, with Frank Herbst as owner, took over the entire building, until 1971 when the store was moved to Peoria Street.

Foster Jewelry, with Edward Foster as owner, has been on the square since August 21, 1959. He was, at first, located at 139 Washington Square and in June, 1971 he moved to 106 North Main St. the former Steimle Pharmacy and Don's Pharmacy location. Years ago this was owned by M. C. Martini who ran a shoe store.

Don's Pharmacy, Inc. located at 100 South Main St. came to Washington on March 17, 1959. He at first operated the same store as Mr. Steimle, but he built his own building and moved there on April 19, 1971. His is the newest building on the square. This location is the old Pfeiffer block. In later years Mickey's Lunch Room stood on the corner and Mrs. Mary Spring had a dress shop there. A Lincoln Lending Library also carried on business in a small portion of the block.

Gamble Store at 110 South Main Street is owned and operated by Mr. Richard Scott and his wife, Ethel. This was known as the Ideal Hardware store for twenty-four years, until Mr. Scott took over on January 1, 1951. Just prior to this time Dorman Engle had the store for three years. Before that time, Bride's Hardware operated a tin shop.

Dr. Frank Ierulli has been at 112 South Main St. for ten years. Before that time, Bob Roehm had a clothing store there.

Chuck's Appliance at 116 South Main St. is owned and operated by Charles Alexander since April, 1969. It was formerly an appliance store. Prior to that time, Paul Thrailkill had a grocery store in the 1930's. Kroger's grocery store had a business on the same site at one time. Years and years ago Moyer's Bakery and Weppner's Confectionary operated a store there.

The Village Baker, 118 South Main Street is owned by Herbert Sharp who does wholesale and retail business. This was the location of the Post Office for many years.

The Courier at 120 South Main Street is owned by Roger Hagel since September, 1973. It was formerly owned by Cletus Bride and used as a tin shop. At one time Lester Wood's Jewelry Store was located there — also U. O. Ullom and Pearl Rapp had a millinery store years ago.

The South Side Barber Shop at 106 Washington Square is owned by Charles Rider since 1946. The previous owner was Herman Spiker who had worked for Walt Holland as a barber and then moved to this location in the 1920's.

The building had previously been owned by Paul Goddard and Tip Kilby who ran the local newspaper until the early 40's.

The upstairs entry beside the barber shop went up to the old Commercial Club, which was later the office of the Bull-Dog Insurance Company. In addition to this, Gertrude Peterson operated a beauty shop up-stairs.

The present owners of the Knit and Stitch Shop at 108 Washington Square are Mrs. Robert Baer and Mrs. Charles Rider, where they have operated their knitting shop since May, 1969. Chuck's Appliance was located there for several years. Prior to that, for many years, it was the office of the Tazewell County Reporter owned by Jim Hanna before him and for the longest period of time, by Paul Goddard and Tip Kilby.

Dr. H. K. Mueri at 110 Washington Square has maintained his dental office there since 1931. He has been on the square for forty-three years. He has just recently been awarded a Life Membership in the American Dental Association. Prior to this time, Dr. Morrow occupied the office.

The South Side Tavern has always been a restaurant and a tavern and has had many owners, one familiar name being Homer Waughop, who is still living.

Circle Four Realty, at 116 Washington Square, is owned by Don Smelz who sells real estate. Prior to this, the building was used as a meat market. The latest butcher being Mr. Delmar Brubaker, then prior to him, Dave's Meat Market, and prior to that time by Mr. Finley. Serving the longest time as a butcher, was Mr. Julius Ortwein. He and Mrs. Ortwein came here from Beardstown as bride and groom and remained all

of their lives. Mr. Ortwein butchered his own meat at the end of South Wilmer Road.

The former drive-in teller window for the First National Bank, then the Merle Norman Cosmetics, is now the Hutchings Printing Shop. It opened for business the summer of 1974.

Sander's Custom Draperies is located off the square south of the Washington Federal & Savings Loan.

The Washington Federal Savings moved to their present location, 128 Washington Square — since August 1970. They were previously located on the north side of the Square and known as Washington Savings and Loan. In 1910 this business originated out of the Denhart bank — Building and Loan Association Building. This location was that of the Danforth Bank until its move to their new location on South Main Street.

Dr. C. J. Forrette first came to Washington in 1948 and practiced medicine in the Slonneger building. After going to Chicago to further his training, he came back and located in the Hirstein Building on North Main Street. Fifteen years ago he purchased the block of land which is north of the Washington Federal Savings and east on Walnut Street. In 1962 Dr. Forrette moved into his new office on the corner, then there is an office building, then the Tally-Ho restaurant. At the end of this block, Dr. Forrette built Marci's Pizza Parlor managed by Marshall Underwood who also manages the Tally-Ho.

The Village Cobbler at 116 Walnut St. is owned by Ray Ceglinski. He went in to business in July, 1972. This was known as the Clifford Slonneger building.

NAPA Auto Supply, formerly Casco, has been in business since 1965 at 120 Walnut St. It formerly housed the Post Office — prior to that was Ed Essig's auto agency. Herbert Marshall's Plymouth and Chrysler agency.

Ingold Standard Service at 119 Walnut St. has been owned by Richard Ingold since February 4, 1965. He remodeled the station in 1972. The parking lot to the west of the station is the site of the old city building, before that, the Danforth Hotel.

Bob's Barber Shop has been in business at 139 Washington Square (downstairs) since 1948. He moved from South Main St. where he had been in business since 1938.

Herman F. Essig started placing loans for the First Federal Savings and Loan Association in 1938 and opened his office in 1940. The business was organized as Washington Realty in 1942 to also include Henry Esser, August Esser and Harold Anderson. In 1962 Herman Esser became sole owner. The business has been located at 139 Washington Square since its inception.

Before that time, this was the site of Brunnemeyer's grocery for years and years — also the site of a tavern at one time. Also, the site of a meat market in the second section of that block.

In 1973, it was organized as Alexander-Essig Insurance Agency in conjunction with Washington Realty Association. Richard Alexander and Herman Essig are partners.

Schierer's Dairy Incorporated has been located at 114 South High St. since November 1965. This was the original site of Mr. & Mrs. Brunnemeyer's house.

Marshall's Tavern, located at 131 Washington Square, was taken from the name of Orville Marshall, who ran the place as a restaurant and tavern for many years. After his death it has been taken over by different managers. In previous years it was a restaurant operated by Frank Nutty and named the Minnehaha. The building had been owned by Jake Sharp and George Mahle. At one time this place was a tailor shop, operated by Faye Land. Mr. and Mrs. Land lived upstairs.

The Fab and Trim shop is now located at 127 Washington Square. Before this time it was the Tazewell Theater for many years. In the early days, Mel Frederick carried on business for the American Express Company and his father Ben Frederick had a harness shop in the rear of the building.

Central Illinois Light Company at 123 Washington Square has been at their present address since 1936. Prior to this time they were in a building at 109 North Main St. This building has been torn down and is used as a parking lot. Russ Faubel is the present manager of CILCO. Years ago this was the location of Miller Furniture and Undertaking parlor.

Land's — a store for men's wearing apparel — at 121 Washington Square originally was owned by Mr. Faye Land. Clarence Zimmerman started working for him as a young boy and now he is part owner of the store along with Mrs. Land. He has been at the present address for twenty years.

The Town and Country Fashion Shop at 117 Washington Square is owned and operated by Miriam Grimm and Marjorie Gerber of Washington. They have been in business since September 1, 1960. At one time Walter Holland had a barber shop here and a pool room in the rear. A popcorn stand stood out in front on band concert nights, filled with buttery popcorn and people stood in line to make their purchases.

Mr. Kenneth W. Black, attorney, and sons Kenneth L. and Bruce W. who are associated with him in the practice of law, are located at 115 Washington Square. Mr. Black moved from the Joos Building in 1970. The Washington Savings and Loan was located here prior to this time when they moved to the former Danforth First National Bank. Before the Savings and Loan, this was the office of the Dunnington and Garber Insurance and Building and Loan.

Witzig Shoe Store at 113 Washington Square followed the Family Shoe Store. Before that, the A and P Grocery store was located there for many years.

Dr. V. A. Antony, M.D. located at 105 Washington Square is a new physician in town. Before Dr. Antony, Rexall Drug store was there for many years. Before that time, Tully's, Pope's, Walter Linder, and C. F. Brady, in that order. Before any of these people, was Dr. Alphonso, who we read about in the first early days of Washington.

The Tazewell County Reporter, our weekly newspaper, is located at 101 Washington Square and is owned by the Tazewell Publishing Company, Morton, Illinois. This corner building was the home of the old Denhart Bank which went in to receivership in 1933. It was then taken over by Rae C. Heiple. In the basement for many years was the Huguet and Schoch barber shop.

Rae C. Heiple, attorney, is located at 107 North Main Street. This is known as the Heiple and Heiple building. He has two sons both being attorneys. Rae C. II is a banker at Abingdon, Illinois and James is Judge in Pekin, Illinois. The Heiples are native Washingtonians and Mr. Heiple, Sr. has lived here all of his life. At one time Dr. Cohen practiced medicine here.

Em's Beauty Bar (Mrs. Verland Bachman) at 117 North Main St. has a new beauty shop at this address. This was the old Dunnington Feed store in many years past. Several different business have occupied this address in recent years. The place has been remodeled after a terrible fire in the 50's.

Slagell Realty Company at 119 North Main St. is owned by LeRoy Slagell. Verlee Boote's beauty shop was there at one time.

Esser-Summer Inc. is located at 121 North Main St. Henry Esser, President; Robert Summer, Secretary-Treasurer; — This was organized July 1, 1965 — Two former agencies merged — both going back to the early 20's and 30's — Snell, Esser, Kimmell, Joe Stormer Agency, Lucy McLaren, Dunnington Agency. Later, Emanuel Garber Agency, then Wm. Engel Agency.

The Cellar at 101 Washington Street, opened for business on 11-1-73. They deal in antiques and gifts and it is owned by Arlene Faubel, Karen Kaufman, Lynne Brinker, Ann Faubel and Margaret Sullivan. The building was built in 1917 by Dr. H. A. Zinser where he practiced medicine until ill health forced him to retire. It was then taken over by Dr. L. E. Monroe who died in 1973.

Ron Hess is the owner of Hess Realty Company at 603 Peoria Street.

Wm. L. Buck is the owner of the Buck Realty Co. at 204 Peoria St.

V. I. Strubar and Sons Plumbing and Heating establishment is located at 203 Peoria Street. Their father was the former owner of a hardware store and plumbing business. Now, the sons and the grandsons have taken over the business.

Lindy's Grocery store at 110 Peoria, St. is owned by Clarence Linsley. He was formerly located in part of what is now Don's Pharmacy building. He moved into his new building September 3, 1970.

The new Ben Franklin owners are Clarence and Larry Gasperi who bought the store from the Frank Herbst family on March 1, 1973. They moved the Ben Franklin store from 108-110 Main St. in September of 1970 where the Herbst had been in business since 1940.

Jack Pudik Company, a commercial artist, is located at 116 Peoria St. where Coy Martin and his wife lived and Mr. Martin was in the barber business. Mr. Pudik previously worked for Caterpillar. He went in to business in January, 1971.

Morton Realty Company at 115 South Main St. is operated by Mr. Fred G. Joos, Sr. and Fred G. Joos, Jr. They have been in business since January 1, 1950. They were partners with Hess Realty since 1946 and prior to that worked for Caterpillar. The building was formerly the Perry Birket residence, then it became part office and apartments.

The Professional building at 118 Peoria St. was built in 1954 on the original site of the old primary school where Miss Mary taught for many years.

These are the businesses, who at this time, occupy offices in the building.

H. W. Engel, DDS

J. H. Lichtenwalter OD

State Farm Insurance with Wm. Nicel as agent

Philip H. Baer and Associates SC MD

Moehle, Reardon, Smith and Day LTD law office

Office of F. W. HEIPLE,

DEALER IN

Drugs & Medicines, Paints, Oils, Brushes, Glass, Lamps, Toys,

CUTLERY, SOAPS, PERFUMERY,  
BOOKS AND STATIONERY,

Washington, Ill.,

Nov 19

1873

Zinser & Norton

Bought of F. W. Heiple

**R**ough and rude though the surroundings of these pioneers may have been, they were, none the less, honest, sincere, hospitable, and kind in their social relations.

It is true, as a rule, there is a greater degree of real humanity among the early pilgrims of any new country than there is when the country becomes older and richer. If there is an absence of refinement, it is more than compensated for in the presence of generous hearts and truthful lives. They are void of hypocrisy themselves and despise it in others. They hate cowardice and sham of all kinds and maintain and cultivate a sterling integrity and fixedness of purpose that seldom permits them to prostitute themselves to any narrow policy or artifice. Such were the characteristics of the men and women who pioneered the way to the township of Washington.

History of Tazewell County  
1879

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF EARLY SETTLERS

WELLS ANDREWS and JOHN ASA ANDREWS were sons of the Reverend Wells Andrews, who moved from Hartford, Ohio, to a farm in Tremont, Illinois, where he was pastor of Tremont Congregational Church for ten years. The Reverend Andrews moved to Washington with his family in 1847, where he was pastor of Washington Presbyterian Church regularly for six years and occasionally till his death in 1867. Wells and John Asa bought the old brick mill in 1851; they both married in 1855. Wells had five children and John Asa had six children.

After the death of Wells in 1894 and John Asa Andrews in 1904, a son of Wells, John Asa Andrews, and a son-in-law of John Asa, Theodore Roehm, operated the Old Mill, or as it became known, Washington Grain Company for many years. John Asa was married late in life to Estelle Fisk. They had no children.



GEORGE W. BAYLER was born in Washington in 1842. Under the guidance of his father, he became a blacksmith and iron worker, running a factory until 1881, when he started importing horses from England and Scotland for the Melbourne Stock Farm, with whom he continued until 1893, when he established a barn of horses at Jersey Lawn. He owned and kept many valuable horses and cattle that greatly improved the quality of farm animals in this vicinity. In 1890 he built a home at 721 West Jefferson (Heyl residence). Mr. Bayler married Mary L. Smith in 1869; she died in 1870. They had a son, Wallace E., who married Mary Stack, whose son, George, married Myrtle Thayer. Mr. Bayler married again in 1873 to Isadore Trimble, a teacher and daughter of Reece Trimble. Their descendants are George Bayler of Washington, Illinois, and Blanche Bayler Little of Arkansas and ten grandchildren. Mr. George W. Bayler died in 1913.





CHARLES L. BIRKETT (1848 - 1928) was born in the vicinity of Washington on the farm so well known as Birkett's Dairy (southwest of city), where he lived until reaching manhood when he started farming and later bought his own farm. His father was William Birkett, one of the early pioneers to this locality. Charles Birkett owned several farms before he moved to the city to 500 South Main Street. Mr. Birkett's popularity with the people was shown by his continuous election as supervisor, a position he successfully and honorably filled. He married Clara C. Van Camp in 1870 and had three sons and one daughter.

LAFAYETTE BIRKETT (1850 - 1919), a brother of Charles L. Birkett, followed the occupation of farming, confining himself to stock raising. Besides, he was a shrewd, successful speculator in real estate; he owned numerous farms in Illinois and Indiana. He was prominently identified with the Methodist Church, was a trustee for a number of years. In 1898 he built the home at 201 East Jefferson Street. Mr. Birkett married Helen Mooberry of Groveland, Illinois, in 1871; they had two daughters and a son.

LESTER BIRKETT, the youngest son of William Birkett (there were eleven children in the family), was a farmer southwest of Washington, Illinois. In 1886, he married Tina Van Meter, who taught school (Cooper School) south of town. They had three sons and two daughters, only two daughters now living: Mrs. Rae C. (Hattie) Heiple of Washington, Illinois, and Mrs. Alice B. Darnall of Bloomington, Illinois. A son, Chester Birkett, now deceased, had a daughter, Mrs. Guido (Jean) Tiezzi, living in Washington. Mrs. Lester Birkett died in 1909, and Mr. Birkett later married Lydia Belsly from Carlock. He retired from the farm and moved to the city and lived at 209 Walnut Street. He died in 1938. Bruce Birkett, son of Lester Birkett, died in January of 1974. He has a granddaughter living in Washington; Shirley Nafziger Sadler.



PERRY A. BIRKETT, another son of William Birkett, was a popular dairyman, born at the well-known Birkett dairy farm. In 1890 he took full charge as owner of the dairy and developed the dairy business larger than anyone before him. Mr. Birkett married Emma V. Thomas in 1882, and they had two daughters and one son. He later occupied the home at 115 South Main Street.

WILLIAM BIRKETT, the oldest son of William Birkett, was a farmer who lived on his farm east and south of Washington. He married Ellen Waughop, and they had two sons and two daughters. In later years he moved to Peoria, Illinois. All children are deceased.





ANDREW CRESS married Mary Kindig in 1834. Their sons were: Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Peyton, and Calvin Pierce.

Calvin was born three miles north of Washington, February 2, 1853. He lived on the farm until 1892 when he moved to Washington. Calvin Cress held many positions of public trust — assessor, school director, alderman, and in April, 1905, he was elected mayor of the city. His home was the Bride residence, corner of South High and East Holland. He married Elizabeth Baker in 1874, and they had two daughters, Mrs. Paul (Viola) Busse (deceased) and Ethel Morrow Storey of Washington, Illinois. Virginia Busse Edwards of Lawrence, Kansas, is another descendant.

George W. Cress, popular citizen and horseman was born in 1846. He farmed and raised stock until 1881, when with his brothers he moved to Washington and erected large barns and began importing horses from England, France, and Scotland. This they continued until 1891, when they dissolved and G. W. continued the business. Mr. Cress was elected to nearly every important office in the township as well as mayor of Washington. He married Celia A. Thompson, and they resided at 508 North Main Street. Their children were Ora, Laura, Clyde, and Maona. Maona Cress Hood was a speech teacher and frequently directed productions of the Washington Players. There are no local descendants.

A. G. DANFORTH, banker and horseman, was born in Washington, Illinois, in 1840, receiving his education in the home schools, Eureka College, Eureka, Illinois, and Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. He was cashier of the Prairie State bank until he went into the mercantile business, as member of the firm of A. H. Danforth and Company. In 1872 the banking firm of Danforth, Snow and Company was organized. Three years later Mr. Snow withdrew, and A. G. Danforth continued the business under the firm name of A. G. Danforth and Company. He also was a breeder of fine horses. Mr. Danforth had a beautiful home on South Main Street on the same spot where William Holland erected his log cabin in 1825. The Habecker Funeral Home is now on the site. He was married to Susan A. Burton; they had six children. His only descendant living in Washington is Miss Susan Stimson. Mr. Danforth died in 1927.

HENRY R. DANFORTH, banker and expert farmer, born in Washington, Illinois, in 1842, received his education at the public schools with a course at Lombard College, Galesburg, Illinois. In 1865 he acquired all of the land he could get control of in Iroquois County. Mr. Danforth built the Danforth Hotel. He was elected mayor of Washington in 1889. Together with his uncle, George W. Danforth, he built the town of Danforth, Illinois. He also owned and conducted a banking business there. In 1884, the family returned to Washington where Mr. Danforth retired. Mr. Danforth married Mary E. Wenger of Gilman, Illinois.





L. J. DANFORTH, the lumberman, was born in Deer Creek and on growing to manhood farmed one of the finest farms in that part of the country. He was school treasurer of Deer Creek township for many years. Mr. Danforth with F. L. Belsly and his brother, James A., became interested in the Deer Creek bank, and in 1903 bought the H. Denhart & Company's lumber yards and settled in Washington. Mr. Danforth married Julia Kingsbury in 1883. Two sons and four daughters were born to this union.

HENRY DENHART, prominent banker and churchman, born in Germany in 1842, located in Washington in 1853. He received his early education in the Washington public schools. He was in the dry goods business with Charles E. Anthony for a number of years, then bought a lumber yard. In 1867 Charles Anthony and Henry Denhart organized a bank and continued until 1885 when Mr. Anthony retired. Mr. Denhart continued in the banking business. He was a generous donor to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Washington. He married Clara Lawson; they had no children. The Henry Denhart residence is now the White Funeral Home on South Main Street.

CLYDE M. DUNNINGTON was born in Atlanta, Missouri, in 1880. He received his education in Washington; in 1894 he entered H. Denhart and Company's bank and worked to the position of head bookkeeper. He went into the insurance and real estate business, and was Secretary of the Building and Loan with offices in the building now occupied by Kenneth Black, Attorney.

Mr. Dunnington married Mabel Whitehill in 1907. They had one daughter, Mrs. C. O. (Lois) Zimmerman, Washington, Illinois. There are two granddaughters: Mrs. C. R. (Jane) Alkire and Carol Zimmerman.

In 1924 Mr. Dunnington built their home at 114 W. Holland Street. He died in 1928.



CHRISTIAN (CHRIS) EBERT was born in Roberts, Illinois, January 14, 1870, the youngest of seven children. His father died when he was eight months old, and upon his mother's death when he was 18, he came to Washington, where he lived with his brother, John Ebert.

Mr. Ebert married Matilda Keil of Holland's Grove, January 30, 1896. They bought a home at 400 Eldridge, where they lived for 64 years until his death at the age of 88 on June 25, 1958. There were seven children in the family — Lester, Harold, and Margaret (now deceased) Raymond, Thelma, Helen, and Mildred.

With a brother Mr. Ebert formed a partnership and drilled wells in the Washington area for several years. In 1905, he and Frank Muller, under the firm name of Ebert and Muller, purchased the Berney Livery Stable, which was located at the southeast corner of the Square. Through additional building and general renovation it was developed into one of the finest livery and feed stables in central Illinois.

After a few years Mr. Ebert returned to well drilling, building two machines which he used in this work. He continued in this business until his retirement. His sons worked with him, and in 1954 Harold and Ray became partners with him in the Chris Ebert Company. At their father's retirement they continued as partners until 1965, when Harold's son, Robert, took over the business and is successfully continuing to work under the same firm name at the same location. Robert's son Chris, who was named for his great grandfather, is interested in the work and may some day be the fourth generation to carry on the business.

Mr. Ebert served for many years as alderman for the third ward. He also served two terms as mayor — in 1923-24 and in 1933-34. During his terms the city purchased the old Danforth Hotel, which was converted and used as the City Hall until a new one was built, and the park behind the cemetery was developed. Over the years Mr. Ebert and his sons have drilled the city's wells, including the one in the square under the old bandstand which was filled in several years ago.

Mrs. Ebert died November 2, 1967, at the age of 94. After her death the family home at 400 Eldridge was bought by Robert Ebert, who has improved it and lives there with his wife Sharon and their three children, Chris, Connie, and Curtis.

Lester Ebert worked with his father for a number of years and served in the navy during World War I. Harold married Mary Kennedy, who was a teacher in the high school. He served as an alderman and as president of the high school board. They have three children: Donna Duncan, a bridal consultant for the Bergner Stores; Margaret lives in Denver, Colorado, with her husband, Bruce Colley, who is a parts representative for Caterpillar; and Robert, who lives in Washington.

Ray Ebert lives at 310 Eldridge with his sister, Helen Kopp. Mrs. Kopp has four children. Marilyn has been



teaching in Sierra Leone, Africa, for the past seven years and also spent two years in Ethiopia with the Peace Corps. Karen married Gene Thrailkill, and they live in Norman Oklahoma, where he is director of the band at the state university. They have three children — Stacey, Dawn, and Chad. Richard is employed by Caterpillar and lives in Morton with his wife Sandra and their children Gregg and Angela. Judith is a nurse in a VA hospital.

Thelma Ebert taught business education for many years before retiring in 1965 after teaching for 27 years in Washington. She served for three years in the Army during World War II. Margaret was graduated from Gregg College in Chicago and worked there until her death in 1941. Mildred Ebert taught for several years before marrying K. A. LaRoche and is living in El Paso. They have three children — Janet LeHew, Roger, and Alan.



HENRY ESSER emigrated from Alsace Lorraine in 1886, and, at age eleven, with his sisters and a brother, attended Miss Italin's first grade class to learn English. When he was very young, he worked by the day on a farm, and then began to clerk in a grocery store. Later he operated the Model Grocery and Bakery at 108 North Main (site of the present Bob's True Value Hardware). In 1904 he married Hattie C. Moehl and in 1915 built the brick home at 207 North Main. Their children are Henry A. Esser, who married Blanche C. Dingledine in 1936, and LaVerne who married John H. Blumenshine in 1947. There are five grandchildren.

Henry A. Esser recalls that, as a boy, he accompanied outside salesmen calling on area customers taking orders for case lots of canned fruits and vegetables, one hundred pound bags of flour, sugar, and bushels of apples and potatoes. The Model Grocery would then order boxcar loads of these items, the customers would be notified of the arrival of the boxcar, and customers would go to the railroad siding to pick up their orders. The apples and potatoes usually arrived in the bulk and were measured into burlap bags or bushel baskets for the customers. Many customers also purchased bananas by the tree-grown bunch and hung these bunches in their cellars to ripen. Crackers, fancy cookies, and the like came to the store in 20 to 25 pound boxes and were measured out on customer's orders into brown paper bags. Likewise beans and peas were weighed out of larger containers; pickles, vinegar, sauerkraut, sugar, and salt came in large wooden barrels, and these items were measured out to each customer's desires.

Saturday was considered by many as shopping day; this was especially true of the farm customers. They

would bring in cases of eggs, which would be candled for quality by a store employee before being sold. Many farmers produced milk and butter which they would bring in to the store in 3 to 5 gallons crocks. Since the only refrigeration available was ice, some of the butter was taken to the cooky factories in Peoria by the store owner, while the better quality was sold to the store's customers by the bulk.

Grocery stores catered to the customer's desires. On Saturdays orders were left early in the day by customers' wives; then the farmers and their wives would attend to banking or other business and shopping matters. In the late afternoon or evening, the wives gathered and chatted in the store awaiting the men who, perhaps, were concluding the day with a beer and conversation in one of the saloons. The grocery stayed open until the men returned; most of them usually by 9:30 or 10:00 P.M.

The Model Grocery burned during the night of May 26, 1920, and the city telephone operator, Mrs. John Atwater, called the fire departments of nearby towns to assist in subduing the blaze. The arrival in forty-five minutes of a truck from the Central Fire Station in downtown Peoria, over a chuck-holed gravel road, was considered a feat.

Mr Esser rebuilt the building on two lots, one of which was the location of the old store and the other on which another building destroyed in the same blaze had been located, but he never went back into the grocery business. For many years he bought poultry from local farmers and hauled it into Peoria to one of the packing houses. After retiring, he remained active in his yard and garden until his death in 1957 at age 82. Mrs. Esser lived until 1972.

PAUL GODDARD married Anna A. Andrews, sister of Margaret Andrews Roehm and ninth child of John Asa Andrews and Mary Telva Burton, July 16, 1902. Paul Goddard was born in Monroe County, New York, in 1865 and worked in the publishing business all his life. He came to Washington in 1899 and purchased **The Washington Post**. He was editor here for many years. They had two daughters, Mary Antoinette, deceased, and Isadora Burton, who in 1926 married Edwin G. Kilby, editor and owner of **The Washington Reporter** for many years after his father-in-law retired. "Tip" and "Iz", as all Washingtonians knew them, are now retired and living in Harlingen, Texas. Mr. Goddard died in 1944.



ELI E. HEIPLE was born in Pennsylvania in 1830, where he received his education and his early business training. He came to Washington in 1857, accepting a position with Andrews, Miles and Company, which he held for seven years, then was with Anthony & Denhart for two years. In 1867 he became identified with the grain, coal, and stock business. Mr. Heiple was our first city clerk, being elected in 1877, and for thirty years held the offices of town clerk and town assessor. Mr. Heiple married Mary E. Snyder in 1850, who died in 1886, leaving two sons. He married Charlotte E. Mahle in 1888. Mr. Heiple died in 1913.

GEORGE HAGENSTOZ, a successful farmer, was born in Fondulac Township and moved to a farm two miles northwest of town in 1886. In 1904 he built a beautiful home at 611 West Jefferson Street. He was married in 1879 to Elizabeth Rohrbach; they had five daughters and one son. There are three daughters living in Washington — Mrs. Walter (Clara) Dingledine, Mrs. Herman (Sadie) Voelker, and Miss Pearl Hagenstoz. Miss Telva Hagenstoz died September 20, 1974, at the age of eighty-two. The grandchildren are Mrs. H. A. (Blanche) Esser and Eugene Dingledine (married Doris Dorward) living in Washington, and Orva Hagenstoz Todd in Mesa, Arizona. The six great grandchildren are Donald J., Edward, and Jon Dingledine, all living in Washington; Linda Dingledine Gabel in Champaign; Annette Esser Anderson in Boulder, Colorado; Sarah Esser MacDonald, Poughkeepsie, New York. There are six great-great grandchildren.



A. H. HEIPLE, son of Eli E. Heiple, was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Washington in 1857. He was active in politics many years but in 1878 became identified with the **Washington News**, which paper he owned and edited for twenty-five years. Mr. Heiple was a Tazewell County member of the congressional committee, also a member of the county and township committees. In 1897 he was appointed postmaster, which position he filled so as to receive special mention from the government. Mr. Heiple married Florence Kingsbury in 1884. They had a son and a daughter, both deceased. He has a grandson, Dr. Gordon Heiple, living in El Paso, Illinois. Dr. Heiple has one daughter and two grandchildren living elsewhere.

FRANK S. HEIPLE, a son of Eli E. Heiple, was born in Pennsylvania in 1855, and moved to Washington in 1857. He attended Carthage College, being a member of the college band, and later on belonged to the old Washington band. He was an active partner of the Heiple & Portman mercantile firm, which was very successful. Mr. Heiple started in the real estate business in 1888, and from 1890 on he had a good insurance business. Mr. Heiple was one of our most successful citizens. He was school treasurer for several years. married Maud Crane in 1880, and they had six sons and four daughters. There are two children still living. They are Mrs. Frank (Gertrude) Finney of Peoria and Rae C. Heiple, long time resident and lawyer of Washington. Mrs. Finney has one son and two grandchildren in Peoria. Rae C. Heiple has two sons. Rae C. Heiple II is a banker and lawyer in Abingdon, Illinois. He has four children. James D. Heiple is Judge Heiple of Pekin, Illinois, and he has three children. Also living is a granddaughter, Mrs. Wilson (Gertrude) Kimmell. They have a son and daughter living elsewhere. Another grandson Frank Heiple, Jr., lives on a farm south of town. He and his wife Jane have four children; one of them, Judd, lives in



Washington. Frank S. Heiple has a total of forty-nine grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. Mr. Heiple died in 1942.

GEORGE A. HEYL, unquestionably the best known and most extensive breeder, dealer and exhibitor of fancy livestock and fowls in Tazewell County, represents the second generation of a family identified with stock interests in Central Illinois since the later 1840's. He followed in his father's footsteps, for his father, Christian Heyl, had been similarly employed during his entire active life. George Heyl was born on a farm in Mason County, where he grew up; he moved to Washington in 1891.



Mr. Heyl married Sara Blumenshine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Blumenshine in 1891; to this union five children were born:

Mrs. Clifford (Florence) Strubhar, Peoria, Illinois.

Iona B. Heyl, Washington, Illinois.

Harley H. Heyl, married Susan Belsly; they have three children; Mrs. Lorna Roth, Washington, Illinois, has two children. Mrs. Ellen Heyl Porter, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, has three children. Mrs. Mary Heyl Lampe, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, has three children.

G. Wellington Heyl, married Virginia Albertson, they have one daughter, Virginia Joan Aeschbach, Akron, Ohio. Mrs. Aeschbach has two children.

Mrs. James (Mildred) Heyl Easterwood, Houston, Texas, has four children.

In 1896, Mr. George Heyl purchased the Yale property at 811 North Main Street and started in the Shetland Pony business. In 1904 he showed the ponies at the World's Fair in St. Louis, winning many prizes including the Grand Champion stallion with "David Harum". In 1915 the ponies were shown at the World's Fair in San Francisco, where they won the Grand Champion with "King Larigo" 8778; they also won many more firsts and champions with twenty head that were shipped out in an Arm's Palace Car. The ponies were shown at all the leading shows from coast to coast and from Canada to Florida. Harley and Iona were constantly with their father on these trips. Harley was an expert driver and a real horseman. Iona drove in the ladies classes.

Mr. Heyl, considered one of the most astute business men in the horse game, passed away in 1932 at the age of 66 years.

HARLAN A. KINGSBURY, well known citizen and real estate dealer, was born in Washington, Illinois, in 1862. He received his education in public schools here and Eureka College, Eureka, Illinois. He was a traveling salesman with a Chicago wholesale house for several years, then bought a half interest in the Chapman grocery store. Mr. Kingsbury entered the real estate business with F. S. Heiple in 1899; in 1903 they added the Metamora bank to their interests. They established an excellent reputation as bankers in the community. He married Clara Kern in 1885. The Kingsbury home is located at 209 S. High St. Mr. Kingsbury died in 1936.



W. S. NORRIS was a well known citizen in Washington. He was born in this township and lived all his life here. His father came here in 1833 from England, engaged in saw mill work, and later turned his attention to farming. Mr. Norris held many positions of trust, among them school director, commissioner of highways, constable, and city marshall. In 1887 he married Mary Odell, and to this union two sons and a daughter were born. One son, John, lives in Washington, Illinois. He and his wife, Volsey, have four children, seventeen grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. Some of these people live in Washington. Mr. and Mrs. John Norris celebrated their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary recently.

W. A. PFEIFFER was born in Germany, in 1859. He moved to New York when he was seven years old, and came to Washington in 1897. The firm of Mostoller & Pfeiffer was formed, and he continued working there until 1899 when he assumed full control as W. A. Pfeiffer & Co. He was a member of the school board and served as an alderman. He married Sophia Reuss, and they lived at 600 Catherine Street. They had five children, all deceased except Pastor Raymond Pfeiffer of Lincoln, Nebraska. Mrs. L. R. (Caroline) Ackerman of Washington, Illinois, is a granddaughter of W. A. Pfeiffer. There are seventeen great grandchildren.



MRS. EDMUND J. REICH, daughter of Philip and Catherine Orth, was born in Washington. She married Edmund J. Reich in 1884. They had two daughters, (Both are still living) Mrs. Roscoe Hawley, 407 Eldridge and Mrs. Cullen H. Christ, 408 Eldridge, also a granddaughter, Mrs. William Crist with whom Mrs. Christ makes her home. Mr. Hawley was a painter, and Mr. Christ was one of the first photographers in town. Mrs. Christ was owner and operator of Daisy's Restaurant in the lower level of the old City Building on the northeast corner of the square. Edmund J. Reich built the A. G. Danforth and Company Bank building. There are two great grandchildren: Karen Crist, in Florida, and Rodney Crist, in Galesburg, Illinois. Mrs. Reich planned and built the home at 121 South Main St.; later she built the house on the southeast corner of South Church and Catherine.



FREDERICK RICKMAN was born in Prussia, Germany, and moved to Washington in 1860. He was one of our best known builders. From time to time he served as alderman. As city engineer he was instrumental in seeing that our first pavement improvement was begun correctly. Mr. Rickman married Sophia Baker in 1859; they had five sons and five daughters. There are two grandchildren, Mrs. Bernice MacKechnic living in Decatur, Illinois, and Richard Payne living in Mexico. Mr. Rickman died in 1933.



WILLIAM RINKENBERGER, prominent contractor and builder, was born at Farmdale, a farm on which his parents settled when first married. Mr. Rinkenger moved here in 1900, and in 1901 opened Rinkenger's Addition, which he gradually developed. He was elected alderman in 1904. Mr. Rinkenger married in 1887 and lost his wife in 1891. He has a son, George H., living in Washington. George Rinkenger, a retired businessman, was associated with Washington Auto Supply Company and the Lumber Company. George married Nellie Keil in 1913. A daughter was born of the union, Mrs. Carl W. (Mary Helen) Shelander, living in Florida. Mrs. Shelander had six children, three living in this area, William Shelander, Mrs. Harold Jefford in Washington, and Rebecca Shelander in Peoria. Mrs. George Rinkenger died in 1959, and Mr. George Rinkenger later married Vera Antrim.



THEODORE ROEHM, a son of William Roehm, was born in Washington, where he attended the public schools. He married Margaret Andrews, seventh child of John Asa Andrews (son of the Reverend Wells) and Mary Telva Burton, in 1894. Their children were:

Telva Roehm (1896 - 1968) was married to Roy C. Blumenshine (1897 - 1973). They had two children, Theodore Blumenshine, Streator, Illinois, and Mary Margaret Tilley, Park Ridge, Illinois.

Knoble Roehm (1898 - 1935) married Orva Kern; they had one child, Zoe Roehm Diebel lives in St. Louis area. Knoble operated a Storage Garage in Chicago for his father. Martha Jackson of Washington is a sister of Orva Kern.

Clifford Roehm (1900) married Gladys Bradle, and they live at 114 South Elm Street. They have five children: Mrs. Lawrence (Jackie) Kinsinger, Mrs. Max (Sandra) Moore, in Washington, Richard Roehm, in Morton, and Clifford Roehm Jr. in East Peoria.

Miriam Roehm, deceased, married Joseph Bruckman; they had two children: Joseph Jr. and Lois.

Theodore Roehm Jr. (1904 - 1904)

Harper Roehm (1906 - 1973) married Alice Tuveson; they had two children: Harper Jr., living in Ohio and Elsa Margaret Melton, living in Normal. Harper, operated Hi-Lo Gas Station in Normal for his father.

John Asa Roehm, 8th John Asa in line, born in 1910, married Frieda Minch, who is a descendant of William Birkett, one of the early pioneers of Washington. John Asa is one of two Charter members left in Washington State Bank, and along with five other men is currently developing Valley Forge Shopping Center. They live at 923 Birchwood Drive. There are two daughters: Mrs. L. D. (Margaret Andrews) Colegrove, in Morton and Mrs. Willis (Nancy) Zobrist in Morton. There are eight grandchildren.

Charles Roehm was born in 1912 and married Paula Teichmann. They had four children, all in Florida. Charles is a retired doctor, living in Florida.

WILLIAM ROEHM was born in Germany in 1833 and came to Washington in 1865 and opened a shoe store. He was alderman at the time the public park was created. He married Catherine Jantzi in Peoria in 1856. Their children were: Julius, or "J. J." Roehm, as all knew him, continued to sell boots and shoes in old "Roehm's Shoes" store at corner of South Main and Washington Square, which was torn down a few years ago. He married Emma Kyes in 1892 and they had three sons; Clayton and Clarence live in Florida, and Robert is deceased.

Mary Roehm was born in 1864, and married John T. Singer in 1914. He died in 1915. Mary Singer was Washington's oldest citizen, she died in 1969 at age of 105. There were no children.

Theodore Roehm married Margaret Andrews. After operating Old Mill or grain elevator with Uncle John (as all knew him) he engaged in insurance business and Washington Finance Co.

Emil Roehm, farmer in Nebraska. Had two children, William and Elizabeth.

Kate George, farmed near Streator. Had one daughter, Lela.



GEORGE M. STIMSON, a prominent and progressive citizen and banker, was born in Patterson, New Jersey. At an early age he moved to Peoria, Illinois, where he received his education. He began his banking career in 1884 with the Commercial National Bank, continuing there until 1898, when he came to Washington as cashier of the A. G. Danforth and Company bank. He served several years as an alderman and as a member of the school board. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the State Bankers Association and also a member of the Tazewell County Board of Review. In 1898 he moved into the home at 201 South Main Street. Mr. Stimson married Mary Telve Danforth in 1898, and they had a son and a daughter. Mr. Stimson died in July, 1937, and Mrs. Stimson died in Feb., 1964. The daughter, Miss Susan Stimson, lives in Washington.



R. TANTON, a landowner, was born in Woodford County and moved to Washington in 1893. In 1902 he moved into one of the most beautiful homes in the city, now 203 South Main Street. Mr. Tanton was a member of the school board for many years. He owned land in several states. He married May Dodds in 1893 and had two sons, both deceased. Three grandsons now farm his land in Woodford County — Henry Tanton, William Tanton, and John F. Tanton. John married Marilyn Martini, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Martini of Washington. There are three other grandchildren, also 15 great grandchildren.



CHRISTIAN STRUBHAR, a successful farmer was born in McLean County, Illinois, moved to Washington in 1865 with his parents, and located on the farm well known as the Strubhar country homestead. His father, Peter T. Strubhar, was one of the best known and respected men in his time. Christian Strubhar moved to the city in 1903 with his family, the house at 505 North Main. He was elected an alderman in 1904; he also was a Township Supervisor. Mr. Strubhar had four daughters and one son. A daughter, Mrs. Nettie Chaffer, lives in California. There are four granddaughters: Mrs. Clyde (Elizabeth) Garrison, in Washington; Mrs. Henry (Gladys) Weisert and Mrs. Robert (Dorothy) Carlson in Peoria; Mrs. Laverne (Kathryn) LaSalle, in Ohio; a grandson, Christian Imhoff Jr., in Chicago. There are two great grandchildren living in Washington, Mrs. Jack Pudik and Gilbert S. Bradle. Mr. Strubhar's farm was on Pleasant View road. He died in 1924.

BEN TOBIAS was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in 1829. He came to Washington in 1855 and started the manufacturing of plows, which he soon increased to a general manufacture of all farm implements and wagons beside doing an extensive repair business. Mr. Tobias was mayor three different terms, was Justice of Peace many years, served as supervisor for one term, and was postmaster during Cleveland's first administration. He served on the school board for twelve years. He married Eliza J. Anderson in 1850 and had three sons. There are two third cousins living in Washington, Mrs. Martha Jackson and Mrs. Caroline Martini. Two other cousins and their off-spring live elsewhere. Mr. Tobias died in 1908.

D. R. VAN METER, one of Washington's best-known citizens, was born in Kentucky in 1830, where he lived until six years of age, when he came to Illinois. Later on he moved to Wisconsin, living there until 1860, when he returned to Washington and engaged in the carpentering business. During this time, January 1856, he returned and married Susan Baker. In January, 1906, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with their entire family present, consisting of five daughters and three sons. Mr. Van Meter was a consistent, steady worker in the Methodist Church. He built his home at

614 West Jefferson Street. The area around the home included an orchard, which would have been where Summit Lane and Jefferson Street are now. Hattie Heiple recalls that she and Viola Risser would climb on the chicken house and pick apples. Mrs. Rae C. Heiple of Washington, Illinois, and Mrs. Alice B. Darnall of Bloomington, Illinois, are grand daughters of D. R. Van Meter. There are six great grandchildren (two are James D. Heiple of Pekin, Illinois, and Rae C. Heiple II of Abingdon, Illinois), also ten great-great grandchildren.



J. P. WRENN was a well known grain man. He was born and grew to manhood in Washington. He married Ella Fifer, daughter of Washington's first mayor, Peter Fifer. They were married in the former Dr. Zinser home, 105 Washington Street. They had two daughters and one son. Two granddaughters live in Washington. They are Miss Eleanor Webster and Mrs. Ella Cummings. Mrs. Cummings has five children and ten grandchildren. Mr. Wrenn has three grandsons: Wade Wrenn, living in St. Louis, has three children; Fritz Wrenn, who lives in California, has two children; Charles Off, of Peoria, has one daughter. There are sixteen great-great grandchildren.

I. ZINSER (1844 - 1901), the well known druggist, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and moved to Illinois in 1851. He was married to Martha Tobias at Plainfield, Illinois, and opened a drug store under the firm name of Zinser & Hasting. The firm later moved to Washington. He was town treasurer for many years. They had five sons and one daughter. There are four grandchildren, two living in Washington, Mrs. Martha Jackson and Mrs. Caroline Martini. Mrs. Orva Sullivan lives in the St. Louis area and E. S. Zinser lives in Dallas, Texas. There are eight great grandchildren and fifteen great-great grandchildren and one great-great-great grandchild.



*If we could see our ancestors all standing in a row,  
Would we be proud of them or not, or do you really know?  
Some strange discoveries are made in climbing family trees  
And some of them you know do not particularly please.*

*If we could see our ancestors all standing in a row,  
There might be some of them perhaps we wouldn't care to know,  
But there's another question which we also might discuss,  
If we could meet our ancestors would they be proud of us?*

Submitted by Jane Putnam — written by her uncle, who is now deceased.

## WASHINGTON FAMILIES FIFTY YEARS OR MORE

### THE JOHN BRIDE FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. John Bride moved to Washington from Missouri in 1913 and took over the Furnace and Sheet Metal Shop formerly owned by his brother, George Bride. This shop was on North Main Street and had been a bowling alley. The Bride's children were a daughter Ola (later she married Clark Hughes) and Cletus. Mr. Bride and Cletus pushed a two-wheeled cart all over town, hauling their tools and materials to the homes of customers. Painters and contractors used carts of this type (as did Melvin Frederick, the Expressman).



In the early twenties, the shop was moved to the Danforth Building at 110 South Main. Mr. Bride opened a retail hardware store. Cletus continued the Furnace and Sheet Metal Shop in the same building. When Mr. and Mrs. John Bride retired in 1944, Cletus and his wife, the former Gladys Malone, conducted the hardware, furnace, and sheet metal business in this same location (site of the present Scott Hardware) until 1966. Thus the John Bride family happily served the people of Washington for fifty-three years and witnessed city progress.



### VALENTINE BURKEY FAMILY

Valentine Burkey came to Washington as a young man in 1860 from Tremont, Illinois. He married Annie Blumenshine of Holland's Grove. Their home was on Peoria Street, now the site of General Telephone. He was employed by the Sonneman and Tobias hardware store and was their mechanic for the farm implements. The family were members of the Evangelical Church.

A daughter, Mrs. Josephine Smith Heitzman, is deceased. Her living descendants are: daughter; Mrs. Clayton (Geraldine) Summer of Washington; grandchildren; Carole Beebe, Leroy Summer of Metamora, and Nancy Farischo; great grandchildren; Douglas, Gregory Beebe, Chad, and Kara Farischo of Washington, Illinois.

A daughter, Mrs. James (Edna) Sullivan, was a grade school teacher in our schools. She is now living in the Apostolic Home in Eureka, Illinois. She has two sons, Dr. Robert Sullivan of Washington, Illinois, whose children are Michael, John, Barth, and Kathleen Sullivan and also Dr. James Sullivan, Jr., who lives in Omaha, Nebraska. He has seven children at that address.



Frank Burkey, a son now deceased, was a cashier for the Danforth Banking Company. He was employed by the bank for many years. His daughter, Mrs. Roberta Corbin, is of Downers Grove, Illinois. A son, Robert, resides in Cleveland, Ohio. Grandchildren are Steven and Susan Burkey.

#### WILBUR O. DECKER FAMILY

Wilbur O. Decker and his wife, Lucie Kinsey Decker, came to Washington from Pekin with their two young sons, Russell and Marion, in 1906. Seven children were born after they came to Washington, of whom four survived. The two sons, Russell and Marion, and two daughters, Lorraine Moschel and Mavis Decker, are living elsewhere. Two daughters, Frances Martin and Gertrude Rosenberg, still reside here. There are nine grandchildren.



Mr. Decker was a commercial printer and had his own shop, where for thirty years or more he turned out many kinds of printing.

The family were Methodists, and in earlier years he played in the Methodist Church Orchestra. He was one of the early and very active members of the Myers Band, later known as the Washington Municipal Band, and also played for some time in the Pekin Band.

Mr. and Mrs. Decker were members of the Masonic and Eastern Star Lodges. Mr. Decker was a member of the Shrine and Consistory, also playing in the Shrine Band in Peoria.

Mrs. Decker passed away in December of 1942 and Mr. Decker in January of 1946.

#### JOHN H. DINGLEDINE FAMILY

John H. Dingleidine, son of Louis and Elizabeth Weyrich Dingleidine, was born in what is now known as the Robein area in 1855. He married Mary Ann Blumenshine, the daughter of John and Annie Rohrbach Blumenshine, and farmed four miles east of Washington. Upon retiring in 1922 he moved to Washington, purchasing the Dr. W. A. Gott residence on East Jefferson Street. He was an avid hunter and fisherman.

Ten children were born into this family:

Flora, who married Ben Stormer, the mother of Erma (Mrs. Glen Clements), Glen (married Mabel Kopp), Mary (Mrs. Harvey E. Blumenshine), Homer (married Viola Nofsinger), Wayne (married Grace Brenneman).

Walter, who married Clara E. Hagenstoz, the father of Blanche (Mrs. Henry A. Esser), Eugene (married Doris Jean Dorward).

Ida, who married John A Bradle, the mother of Irvin (married Winifred O'Shea), Vernon (married Della Nickels), Ethel (Mrs. P. J. Brown), Mildred (Mrs. Paul Blake).

Harvey, who married Barbara Strubhar, the father of Ronald (married Dorothy Attig), Richard (married Doris Bozarth), Ruth (Mrs. Thomas Eichorn), Wayne (married Maxine Keith).

Clara, who married Robert Mayo, the mother of George, Ralph, Charles, and Harley.

Emma, who married Jacob Grenzebach, the mother of Marvin, Raymond (married Jean Curlee), Arden (married Clara Jackson).



Louis, who married Lottie Reeser, the father of Mary Ann (Mrs. Wesley Attig), Howard (married Lorena Stringer), Robert, Roger (married Nancy Payne).

Minnie, who married Adolph Schmuck.

Pearl, who married Irvin Reeser, mother of Kenneth (married Clara Staples), Dorothy (Mrs. Donald O. Schroen), Carol (Mrs. Ben Bridgers).

Harley, who did not marry.

#### MICHAEL EBERT FAMILY

Michael Ebert (1865-1950) was born in a log cabin in Black Partridge Township. As a young man he came to Washington, married Amelia Keil, and with their three children, George (1894-1943), Clara (1896), and Forrest (1898-1968), lived on South Elm Street. Clara (Mrs. A. D. Blumenshine) resides in Ripon, Wisconsin. George established a heating and plumbing company in Washington, and Forrest continued the well drilling business which had been established in 1888. One of the first deep wells in the Washington area was drilled in 1888 on the Switzer farm and it is still in operation. Along with well drilling, threshing and corn shelling were also done, but due to the expanse of business just the drilling was continued. The majority of deep water wells, both commercial and domestic, in the Peoria area have been drilled by either Michael Ebert or Chris Ebert Companies.

In 1915 and 1916 the home at 904 Peoria Street was built by Mike Ebert. At the present time the William Ebert family resides there. William, the grandson of Michael Ebert, continues the drilling business. William is currently president of the Illinois Water Well Association. The walnut woodwork in the Ebert home was sawed from trees cut in the Birkett's pasture in 1909. Mr. Erickson, who was the woodcrafter for the Pullman Company, inlaid the floors and finished the woodwork in the entire house for \$300.00. Walls are fourteen inches thick of brick and tile. A built-in vacuum cleaner was installed in the home as well as an elevator below the basement for refrigeration.



Descendants living in Washington are Mrs. Michael Ebert, Mrs. George Ebert, Mrs. Forrest Ebert, Mr. and Mrs. William Ebert and their daughters, Elizabeth and Ellen.

#### THE JOHN ENGEL FAMILY

According to family tradition, John Engel was a sort of scout or pathfinder to the groups of emigrants from Alsace-Lorraine, France, who came to establish homes in America during the 1830's and later. He left France in 1829 and moved through Pennsylvania to a point in Ohio from which he walked across country to this community. Afterwards, he walked to Galena, Illinois, where there was a lead industry, then to Keokuk, Iowa, where there was a button industry. The buttons were punched out of mussel shells taken from the Mississippi River. He evidently satisfied himself that neither of these places were his cup of tea; so he came back to Metamora, where he purchased a farm within a mile west of that village. When the Metamora Courthouse was built, the timber for the interior structure was procured from the grove on his farm.

John Engel married Barbara Detweiler, who was a sister of Henry Detweiler, the captain and owner of river steamboats operating between Peoria and St. Louis. Tradition has it that he became a friend of General Grant by helping transport Grant's Troops from Missouri to the eastern side of the river early in the Civil War. After the war he continued in the river business until late in the 19th century, when he joined the Woodruff brothers in the river ice business. His son Tom later bought and presented to the City of Peoria the old



Payson Farm to be called Detweiler Park in honor of his father.

In 1832 John Engel became the driver of a supply wagon for the troops in the short Blackhawk War. After this he engaged in farming and raising a family of two sons and five daughters.

In 1833 John's father, Christian, who was an ordained minister of the Mennonite Church, came over from France accompanied by his brother Peter who settled on a farm south of Metamora. In the same year, one historian relates, the first church in Woodford County was organized in the home of John; and later, in the year 1854, a brick church known as the Partridge Church was built on the road between Metamora and German-town. A field stone monument on the south side of the road marks the spot today.

The oldest son, Christian II, who married Elizabeth Nafziger purchased a farm northwest of Washington

just across the road from the old Union Church and raised a family of two sons and four daughters. A daughter of John II, Evelyn Smith, resides in Washington as do the children of Matilda, who married John Summer. Her children are Clayton, Harvey, and Lester Summer. Two sons, Ira and Earl, and one daughter, Verna (Foley), are deceased. All of the other daughters of John, the pioneer, married and moved away from this community except the youngest, Rachel, who married Peter Sweitzer and bore two sons, Willard and Fred, the latter of whom is still living. The other son, Joseph, never married. He died in 1921 and is buried in the Union Cemetery.

#### AUGUST ESSER

August Esser emigrated from Alsace-Lorraine in 1886. His father, Adolphe Esser, had a small fruit and vegetable farm on what is now South Wilmor Road. August later attended Valparaiso University and returned to Washington to teach in country schools. He married Lydia Ficht in 1912. Their descendants are Blanche M. and Alvin W., of Washington. Alvin married Phyllis Laycock in 1947.

While teaching school, August Esser operated a fruit farm on Spring Creek Road, he taught in St. Mark's Lutheran Sunday School, was a Justice of the Peace, and represented the Federal Land Bank in arranging farm loans during the depression.

Mr. Esser relates that on April 5, 1920 farmers were sowing oats and snow fell that night. The next morning, Easter Sunday, roads were impassable and farmers could not get to church. An extra effort was expended on Monday to open the roads because a primary election was scheduled on Tuesday.

At this writing (summer 1974) Mr. Esser had observed his 90th birthday in March. He clearly recalls earlier times and happenings in Washington. His recollections were a great help in writing various contributions to this book.



#### JOHN ESSIG FAMILY

John Essig was born February 15, 1855 in Wiernsheim Wurtemberg, Germany. He departed for America with his parents and one sister, at the age of six months. Enroute, the boat hit severe storms and the captain asked for volunteers to man the pumps. His father caught pneumonia due to exposure and died. A burial at sea was planned when a kind lady on the boat offered to pay for his burial in Ireland, where the boat stopped for repairs.

John Essig married Caroline Koch, November 20, 1884 in Peoria, Illinois. Caroline Koch was born in Hessen, Germany, May 5, 1850 and passed away in September of 1899, leaving her husband and three daughters.

John Essig then married Elise (Lizzie) Esser in Washington, Illinois, on May 22, 1900. Elise Esser was born December 13, 1879 in Niederbronn Elsass, France. She came to Washington, Illinois, with her family when she was six years old.

The Essigs farmed west of Washington and to his marriage four sons and two daughters were born. Mr. Essig passed away May 25, 1933 at his home. Lizzie Essig is now making her home at The Maple Lawn Nursing Home in Eureka, Illinois. Following are their children:

Lillie Susane married Charles Grosenbach of Washington, Illinois, to this union four children were born: Lucille Peters of El Paso, Texas, Margaret Neiman



of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Florence Nally of Croston, Maryland, and Harold Grosenbach of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Grosenbach are deceased.

Mary Christine married Walter Spring of Washington, Illinois, and three children were born: Esther Johnson of Estes Park, Colorado, Elmer Spring of Washington, Illinois, and Walter Jr. died at the age of four. Mr. Spring is deceased and Mrs. Spring is now retired and living in Washington. For many years she owned and operated Spring's Dress Shop on the square.

Anna Margaret married Floyd Himmel of R. R. East Peoria, Illinois. After their marriage they resided in Peoria, Illinois, then moving to Washington, Illinois in 1950. Mr. Himmel is deceased and Mrs. Himmel is retired.

John Essig married Agnes Birkett of Washington, Illinois, and two children were born: Donald of Havana, Illinois, and Margaret of Morton, Illinois. John farmed west of Washington, Illinois, at the time of their marriage, later running his own oil business. At the time of his death he operated the Oldsmobile Agency. Agnes Essig is deceased.

Henry Essig married Frieda Koch of Washington, Illinois. Four children were born: Doris Farney of Eureka, Illinois, LaVerne Patterson of Washington,

Illinois, Glenn Essig and Dorothy Foster of Washington, Illinois. Henry Essig farmed for a number of years, and at present is owner of Essig Motor Company of Washington. Frieda Essig is deceased. Henry Essig married Virginia Kimpling Torrance and has one step-daughter.

Wilhelmina M. Essig died at the age of eleven.

Hermia Essig married Roger Ingold of Washington, Illinois. They now live in Neilsville, Wisconsin, where they farmed for many years. Recently retiring. They have two children: Mary Louise Naedler of Granton, Wisconsin, and Roger, Jr. of Neilsville, Wisconsin.

Herman Essig married Phyllis Dixon of Washington, Illinois, and two children were born to this union: Dean Essig, an attorney, and Elaine Helmuth both of Washington, Illinois. Herman is an insurance and real estate broker, owning the Washington Realty Company and co-owner of Alexander-Essig Insurance Agency.

Edward Essig married Mary Jeanne Brekke of Clark, South Dakota, and four children were born: John Bradley, a dental student, Ann Bush of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Kelli of Washington, Illinois. Sue Marie is deceased. Edward is a real estate broker in Washington.

#### EDWARD E. HABECKER, SR.

Edward E. Habecker, Sr., was born in Danvers, Illinois, on a farm in 1883. He married Helen Enault in 1907. He came to Washington in 1913, where his first mortuary was set up in a building in the first block on North Main Street on the west side of the street. About 1920 he built the Dodge garage at 120 Walnut Street with the undertaking establishment upstairs. In 1927 he purchased the beautiful mansion built in 1869 by A. G. Danforth. The funeral parlor was downstairs and the living quarters were upstairs. Mr. Habecker went through the transformation from using horse-drawn hearses to automobiles. In the olden days, all the implements of embalming were taken to the home, and the funerals were held in the home or in the church. Mr. Habecker was one of the early directors of the Washington Federal Savings and Loan business in Washington. He lived to be almost ninety years of age, and he enjoyed good health most of those years. He died May 25, 1973. He left a daughter, Mrs. Ted (Helen) Waldeck, who has three children, two sons and one daughter, and seven grandchildren, all living elsewhere. Also, he left Edward Habecker, a son, who is president of Washington Federal Savings and Loan and the present mayor of Washington. He and his wife, Mary, have four children, all living at home. This leaves Mr. Habecker Sr., with a total of eleven grandchildren.



#### LOUIS A. HOEFLIN—VIOLA HOEFLIN RISSER

The log-cabin pictured here was built in Holland's Grove in the 1870's. It was the birthplace of my father, Louis A. Hoeflin. His father, who built the cabin, was Andrew Hoeflin, and his mother was Elizabeth Mehling, both born in Baden-Baden, Germany. In later years, their home was located in Washington where the Methodist Church annex has been built. Grandpa Hoeflin was born in 1835 and died in 1913. He was a veteran of the Civil War and became blind as a result of gunpowder in his eyes during the war. The gentleman in the picture is Andrew Hoeflin, Jr., my father's brother. "Andrew" is the Hoeflin family name and there has been an "Andrew" in every generation. There is also a tombstone in the Washington Glendale cemetery, bearing the name of Andreas Von Hoeflin with his birth date, 1814, and his death in 1881.

In Germany, the name was "Von Hoeflin" but the family dropped the Von; however, I thought the Von sounded just great (hmm) — with "Viola", so in school, I sometimes signed my name, Viola Von Hoeflin. This worked very well until one of the high school teachers seated each student according to his last name, I was seated in the back row much to the outrage of some of the "kids" in the front seats, so that ended the use of "Von"!!

Our family home was located at 203 Market Street. There were seven of us children; five girls and two boys. My sisters were Esther Petri and Mary Evelyn Gunn who made their homes in Laramie, Wyoming and Victoria Campbell and Louise (Dolly) Roberts, who live in Miami, Florida. My brothers are Andrew R. Hoeflin, Peoria, Illinois, and Louis A. Hoeflin, Jr. of Riverside, California. We were a musical family and most of us sang in the church choir at one time or another as well as in chorus and college groups, not to mention while doing the dishes at home or gathered around the piano. One time all five sisters were asked to



sing for a program at the City Building; when we came in together, the audience applauded, and we were so surprised we almost forgot to sing.

My father operated a hardware store for many years in the building now owned by the Herbst Company. Later he became a real estate broker. Both of my parents were born and raised in the Holland's Grove area. Dad was born in 1872 and died in 1952. My mother, Flora Keil Hoeflin, was born in 1876 and died in 1962. All the children are living except Mary Evelyn, who died in 1973.

My mother, Flora Hoeflin, was instrumental in the establishment of the Washington Library. It had been her dream for many years. She felt that Washington needed a library and she talked to many people about it. Among those who became interested were Mrs. Harriet Zinser, Mrs. Nora Weeks, and Mrs. Carrie Urban. These four women worked to interest the Washington Mother's Organization in this project, and in 1924 the first discussions were held by the club. Further information is in the history of the Washington Library. I feel their dream has been fulfilled.

#### KEIL-BLUMENSHINE

The first member of the above family to come to the locality was Balsar Knell from Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, in the early 1830's. He was a widower with three married daughters. The eldest was married to Balthasar Keil, the second to William Blumenshine, and the youngest to a Mr. Hofbauer. The Hofbauers left this area long ago and trace of them has been lost. There is a certificate, written in long hand in possession of the family, signed by the Grand Duke of Hesse, giving Balthasar Keil, "ein ackerman" or peasant, the right to emigrate to North America with his wife and four children and excused him from military service. He was a cobbler by trade and, as tradition has it, after landing in New York, drifted to Philadelphia, then to Pittsburgh from where the family came down the Ohio River on a homemade raft. They then worked their way up the

Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to the then Fort Clark (now Peoria), then into their new home, carrying all their worldly belongings. Fortunately, father Knell and brother-in-law Blumenshine were here before and, no doubt, helped a great deal in their getting settled.

Of their life we know little except that on land now east of the Grange Road, they lived in a two-room log house and owned a team of black horses, equivalent to, let's say, a Buick nowadays. Also, be it noted, the youngest son had learned the art of grafting trees, and the family had an orchard of the finest apples, the elder aunts say, they ever tasted. Of the five children in the family, three were deaf mutes due to a seige of scarlet fever. Great-grandfather, on two succeeding years, took these three children with team and wagon to the state school

for the deaf at Jacksonville. They stayed the winter, and he returned for them in the spring. Also, we know that he and his youngest son died the same day from typhoid fever. The older man was fifty-five years old at the time. They are buried in the Holland's Grove Cemetery. Grandmother Keil lived to be over ninety and lived her later years in a little brick house built for her by her son, William Keil. Of him, let us note, that he was a man very aggressive by nature, who before the days of woven wire, fenced over one hundred acres of hilly timber ground with a board fence, and raised hogs who fattened every fall on acorns.

Now to another patriarch of the family, William Blumenshine. We are told he was a quiet gentle man, very religious and a great friend of the circuit riders and ministers of the gospel who came to the neighborhood. He was the father of Margaret, who married William Keil, and of John, Phillip and William, whose descendants lived and farmed east and about Washington. It is told of Grandmother Blumenshine, a strong pioneer woman, that she kept an ax behind the cabin door. When some straggling Indian came up the creek asking for bread, whiskey, sugar or tobacco, she emphasized that when she said no she meant no. Also we are told that, on occasion, she would take the family flintlock, go out into the woods and usually come back with a turkey or other addition to the larder.

One more recollection of olden days, in Holland's Grove Cemetery, there is a little grave covered by a giant peony plant. The headstone reads: Here lies Rachel Johnson born 1867 died 1868. Her people, cousins of the family, had their covered wagon loaded to move to Nebraska. The night before they were planning to go, the little one died. She was buried and, at that time or soon thereafter, someone planted a peony on her grave. It grew and flourished and every spring since then comes forth with a wealth of bright red blooms.

A near tragic incident, which gives some understanding of the times, occurred some ninety years ago

when Mr. & Mrs. Albert Keil, Mr. & Mrs. John Essig, Sr., and Louis B. Keil went to Peoria, traveling with the former's team and bob sled, to celebrate New Years Eve at the home of relatives. Instead of taking the rope ferry, they crossed the river on the ice. In returning late that night, they decided to again cross by the ice, although they had been warned that the ice was weakening. When in the middle of the river, the team and front runner of the bob sled crashed through the ice, leaving the people in the wagon sitting on the ice. One of the horses got her front feet on solid ice, but the weight of the other horses and the front runners dragged her under. It was a grievous loss but the folks, of course, were grateful for the miraculous sparing of their lives. Rivermen retrieved the harness from the horses in the spring.

It would also be fitting here to add a word about the "West Keil family", who came from the same place in Germany but, as far as we know, there was no close blood relationship. They lived in Fondulac township but were much involved in the community. The eldest was George Keil, who had three sons: George, Peter, and Adam. George has no living descendants. Peter's son, Adam, was for years a clerk in a drug store on the north side of the square in Washington and was also for a long time, city clerk. A daughter, Mrs. Louis List, also has descendants hereabouts. The first named Adam Keil was the master craftsman of the pioneer community. He built many of the large barns of that early day. He and his crew worked in the woods in the winter, hewing out the timbers. The farmer would haul them in place, and in the spring, they would have a barn raising. Adam Keil received \$1.00 per day for his labor and his helpers got 75 cents. The elder George Keil's widow later married Balsar Knell and is buried in Holland's Grove Cemetery. The last survivor of the younger George Keil family was G. Frank Schmaltz, who did a great deal toward the maintenance of Hollands Grove Cemetery.

#### FAY LAND FAMILY

Fay Land came to Washington in 1914 from Kansas, where he had been in the dry cleaning and tailoring business for four years. He married Lucy Pattee in 1912 in Wray, Colorado. He started his dry cleaning business here in the location of Bob's Barber Shop. Later he moved to the Marshall's Tavern building for seven years, before moving to his present place of business. He started in the clothing business here about 1917.

Mr. Land was a volunteer fireman for years in the early 1900's. He was on the grade school board for many years, and led the singing at Kiwanis Club meetings. He passed away April, 1958.

His wife, Lucy, still retains partnership in the business. Of his four daughters; Mrs. Carol Lytle and Mrs. Miriam Grimm, live close by. Mrs. Dorothy Eastman lives in Florida, spending several months of the summer in this



area, and Mrs. Harriet Brown lives in Springfield, Illinois. There are nineteen grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

#### THE MALONE FAMILY

In the early twenties, Mrs. Cletus Brides' parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Malone and family (Hugh, Orval, Mabel, and Agnes) moved from Metamora to a farm west of Washington, where Hugh helped his father with the Silver Tip Fox Ranch until a tornado wrought destruction in this area on June 28, 1924.

Mabel Malone and Harold Greiner were to be married that day. Her trousseau except her wedding gown was blown out of the farmhouse window and scattered over

the farm. After hasty, necessary purchases, the wedding occurred as scheduled but without music because power lines were down.

After Harold Greiner's death (typhoid epidemic in Secor in 1926), Mabel Malone Greiner taught choral music in the surrounding towns. The Washington Community High School Chorus under her direction rated first in the State in 1928. She also directed the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Choir for a number of years.

#### MEINHARDT C. MARTINI

Meinhardt C. Martini was born in Norden, Germany on August 6, 1859. He was a traveling salesman in Europe and had the opportunity to learn several different languages before coming to this country as a young man.

He settled in Deer Creek, Illinois, and found work on a farm in that vicinity.

Eventually he saved enough money to buy half-interest in a grocery store in Washington, Illinois, then he went into the same business for himself.

He showed great interest in music and could play almost any brass instrument, consequently, he organized the Martini band. He bought instruments and gave lessons to those gentlemen who were interested in playing in the band. Later, the band under the direction of Mr. Allie Myers, was named the Myers band.

Mr. Martini married Emily Josephine Crane on June 1, 1887 in Washington, Illinois. They had four children, two daughters now deceased, and two sons Rodgers C. of Amarillo, Texas, and August M. of Washington. He leaves six grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren and eleven great-great grandchildren. Two grandchildren and six great grandchildren live in this area.



When the Pekin Court House was rebuilt, dedication exercises were held in June, 1916 and Mr. Martini's name is engraved on the plaque in the Court House as supervisor at that time.

He also owned a shoe store in the building where Foster Jewelry store now stands, he was a police magistrate at one time and did considerable real estate business.

He died in Peoria, Illinois, in 1934.

#### IRA W. MILLER SR. FAMILY

This is a short background of the Ira W. Miller Sr., family. Exact dates and years are lacking but Mr. Miller was born in Hoopole, Illinois, in 1849. He graduated from Northwestern University, and after his father died and his mother remarried, he decided to come to Washington with one of the Minch families.

He lived with the Minches on a farm near Cooper Station. During this time he taught school in several country schools. In 1882 he married Elizabeth Zaneis, whose father was in the contracting business of Rickman and Zaneis in the early seventies. Their three children are Roy, now 91 years old living in the Lacon Nursing Center; Louise Linder, now deceased, whose husband operated the Linder Drug Store, previously the C. F. Brady Store; and Clayton, who is 88 years old and is living at 203 Lincoln, Washington, Illinois.

After teaching school, I. W. Sr. decided to join his father-in-law as a mortician and furniture dealer. Upon graduation from the Mortuary Science School in



Chicago, they located in the store now operated by Bob's Hardware. In those days furniture and embalming were associated, — the reason being most caskets were wooden boxes and were dressed in cloth covers at the store. Embalming was done at home, and a horse-drawn hearse traveling over dirt roads caused many complications, to say the least.

Mr. Miller's hobbies were horses and a gifted talent with pen and ink in writing and artistry; some of his work is in the family. I. W. took an active part in civic enterprises and was mayor during 1911-1912. Vacation time was spent at the horse races in Peoria; this was a happy time for his son, Clayton, for his job was to care for the horses. When race day came, it was loading the standard bred harness horse, Verily, cart, and other equipment on a road wagon and driving to the Benford Livery Stable in Peoria. From there they took a street-car to the race tracks at the fairgrounds and cheered Verily and the driver named Sample on to victory or defeat. Ira Jr., remembers the big day he had when his grandfather took him along at the age of six.

During this time Roy and Clayton played baseball on Sunday as pitcher and catcher on the Washington Bull Dog team. Recreation for the boys was mostly congregating in the square, which was the hub of activities, with all the stores open every evening, but everything closed on Sunday. Another treat was taking the train to Peoria at 3:30 P.M. for vaudeville and then home at midnight.

#### WILLIAM MULLER FAMILY

William Muller was born December 15, 1864, and married Katherine Minch, born March 12, 1869, in January 1888. They moved from Groveland to Washington in 1913 and farmed the land which is now the site of the Washington State Bank. A meeting room in the bank commemorates their name where wood from their barn is used in the decor.

Their children were John B., Robert, Clarence, Ada (who married William Doering), Earl, Charlie, Mary (who married John Murphy), Walter, and Elmo (who married Gertrude Heiple).

John B. Muller was the father of William (who married Eleanor Steimle), Gladys Downer, and Elma Hofmeyer.

Robert's children are Arthur, Alvin, and Lloyd Muller, all of East Peoria, Illinois.

Clarence's two children, Howard and Kathryn Muller Poff, also reside in East Peoria, Illinois.

Charlie is a Washington resident. His son Arden is on the Washington City Council. Another son, Eugene, lives in Florida; a daughter, Phyllis Troyer, is in Goodfield, Illinois.

Walter lives in Peoria; his son, David, is in Knoxville. Walter recalls that he was attending the old Central School on North Wilmore Road on November 11, 1918. A whistle sounded, and the pupils realized that an armistice could have been announced. Walt grabbed a long pole used for pole vaulting, attached a flag, and rode a horse to the Washington Square where he was asked to lead a parade in celebration of peace.

When his father-in-law died, he moved the business to the building that houses the Cilco Company at present. At this time Clayton took training from his father and received his embalmer's license. They worked together until Ira and his wife moved to Pontagorda, Florida, where they lived until their health failed.

Roy and Clayton took the business for a year and then sold the embalming business to Ed Habecker and the furniture store to Harry Walschmidt. Clayton then went with Dickenson and Company. Roy moved to Henry, Illinois, and was affiliated with the bank. At that time Louise was teaching school in Roanoke, Illinois.

At this date the Miller name is carried on by Clayton W., his son, Ira W., living in Washington, David W., a grandson of Clayton, and Timothy W., a great grandson.





#### GEORGE H. RINKENBERGER

George H. Rinkenberger was born in an adobe near Oberlin, Kansas, February 4, 1891 to William and Mary Stumpf Rinkenberger. His mother died in 1891 and he was raised by his father and grandfather at Farmdale, Illinois. He moved to Washington, Illinois, with his father in 1906.

Mr. Rinkenberger started selling gasoline engines in 1907 and organized the Washington Supply Company in 1908.

On June 18, 1913 he married Nellie Marie Keil, and they had one daughter, Mary Helen Shelander, of Punta Gorda, Florida.

Mr. Rinkenberger served as alderman from 1916 to 1920. He was elected mayor of Washington in 1925 to 1933 and from 1935 to 1941. In 1928 he was a candidate for United States Congressman. He was named Man of the Year by T.P. & W. in 1954, a member of the Lutheran church, Masons, Odd Fellows, Rebecca, Eastern Star, lieutenant governor of Illinois and Eastern Iowa Kiwanis, and chairman of the township Polio Drive from 1941 to 1950.

Nellie Marie Keil Rinkenberger passed away in 1960. He married Vera L. Antrim in 1961.

Mr. Rinkenberger was listed in "Who's Who" in the midwest in the early 1960's, he was also a director of Washington First National Bank for many years. He was owner of Rinkenberger Lumber Company, selling wholesale building material, from 1941 to 1967 and owner of Washington Supply Company from 1908 to 1967. Mr. Rinkenberger has six grandchildren and five great grandchildren, one great grandchild is deceased.

The following is an address made by Mayor George Rinkenberger at the dedication of a bronze memorial to William Holland, October, 15, 1926:

"I consider it a very great honor to have the opportunity of presiding at this meeting and being mayor of our city 100 years after its foundation was laid by the man in whose memory we meet here this afternoon. This is an occasion that few people are able to witness, and to have the honor of presiding is only to remind me of my inability to do justice, and my great desire will be to be able to do better because the memories that are brought back to us are not only who was the founder of our city, but they show us what men of those times did for the future generations. I wonder if the men of today are sacrificing as much as the people one hundred or a thousand years ago sacrificed so that you and I might be happy and prosperous today, and I wonder if you and I are appreciating the things that these people did for us. Of the many instances that we can recall we can start back twenty centuries ago when Christ gave his life for us; then we go through the many wars and through the sufferings and hardships that were endured by the men who discovered and first settled in our great free country in the fourteenth century and down to our own William Holland, who, a hundred years ago, without any of the luxuries and the privileges and happiness that we have today, sacrificed his life and his fortune to make this spot a happy home for you and me.

In looking over some of the records it seems to me that this man was a cheerful giver, and got his pleasure out of giving rather than out of the honor that was derived from it. He gave to us our cemetery so that we might have a resting place for those who passed beyond; he gave to us both the primary and the grade school grounds and the school play grounds, having in mind the welfare and the generation that would continue the activities of our city after he had passed on. He also gave to this city, as a gift, the Public Square where we are now meeting in his honor. So he started here the development of the laying out and the building of our beautiful little city. He did it in honor of the "Father of Our Country" and named it after Washington rather than after himself, which he no doubt would have had an opportunity to do; but in his modest way it seems that we can read in his history that his mind was only for you and me that live today, and the things he did were not for his own glory. I am wondering if a hundred years from now the same thing could be said about any of us, and I am sure that this afternoon will be well spent in placing in the City Park a suitable memorial of our founder, and I am sure that the speakers of this afternoon will bring us some very interesting messages appropriate for the occasion.

As the mayor of our city, I feel it my duty and it is with great honor that I accept it as a privilege to exercise the authority invested in me as mayor of the city to express to Mrs. Esther Weeks and the descendants of William Holland a sincere appreciation for the beautiful memories that we have of your father and our "father".

It is certainly remarkable to be able to realize that one hundred years after our city was founded we can celebrate in honor of our founder and have with us his

daughter who happens to be Mrs. Esther Weeks, who passed the 84th year of her life on March 16, last. She is the youngest of the twenty-one children of William Holland, and if I might pause from seriousness for a moment I might add here that William Holland not only started our city by the gifts of the cemetery, the school grounds and the City Park and by the establishment of a solid foundation for a prosperous city, but he also, within his own children, gave us a mighty army of men and women who were able to do more than their part in keeping in operation the city he started some one hundred years ago. We are not all unmindful of the things that your ancestors have done; the only reason that we are unable at this time to express to you the proper appreciation that this city might have for that foundation which was laid by William Holland in 1826 is because I do not have the words and the ability to

express it in a proper manner. I therefore again, on behalf of the citizens of Washington and the community which I represent as mayor, express to you, Mrs. Weeks, and the other descendants of William Holland, an assurance of our sincere appreciation of your own efforts and those of your families who have left us before you in the great part which you have had in the building of this city and community, and the liberal spirit in which you will be rewarded again for the splendid spirit you have shown on earth when it becomes your opportunity to meet William Holland again inside the pearly gates at the right hand of God."

Mayor George Rinkenberger

Taken from *EARLY HISTORY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS*. Published by Tazewell County Reporter 1929

#### CHESTER SLONNEGER FAMILY

Two of the early pioneer families of Washington were the Slonneger's and the Birkett's. John Slonneger came to Illinois and settled south of Washington. He and his wife, Barbara, had five sons and one daughter.

One of the sons, Chester, married Pearl Birkett December 1907. They lived on a farm south of Washington, where their five children were born. Irvin and Mildred live in Peoria; Clarence and Dorothy are now deceased; Ethel still lives in Washington. In 1922 they all moved into town. Mr. Chester Slonneger at one time managed a grocery store. He was an alderman, and he also served on the school board. He was a member of the Washington Municipal Band for 62 years. While still residing in Washington, Mr. Chester Slonneger passed away in 1973 at the age of 90.

Mrs. Slonneger's family dates back to 1831, when her great grand-parents came from Vermont. Her grandfather, William, was 14 years old at the time. He married Mary Jane Kyes on May 12, 1841. They had twelve children, most of whom spent their lives in this area. One of the twelve children was Charles, the father of Mrs. Slonneger. Charles Birkett was active in civic affairs, serving as supervisor at one time.



Besides the children of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Slonneger, there are five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren living in Washington.

#### JAMES SMITH FAMILY

James Smith and wife came from Aberdeen, Scotland. He had hardly settled in Fort Clark (Peoria) when he was urged to come to Washington, as carpenters were needed. He built his home at the north end of Spruce Street on property now owned by James Smith, a great grandson. He donated land on which all three Presbyterian churches have been built, and he and his sons played an important part in their construction. They became well known as building contractors and erected churches, schools, and homes. One home is the Reyburn residence, later the nursing home on the corner of Holland and South Main. He built all the stations on



the T.P. & W. Railroad between Bushnell and Effner. A Smith sawmill was near the creek at 205 West Jefferson. Also, he created a furniture business in which he made all the furniture that was sold. He was one of the first undertakers. The family members were: James, John, William, David, Fred, George, Ellen Murray, and Susan.



John Smith worked with his father and was later city street superintendent. He built a new home on the original Smith property. There were five children: Minnie, Mary (Nellie), Roy, Clyde, and Shelby.

Roy and Clyde formed a partnership, Smith Bros. Concrete Co., and were experts in the field of concrete work, building sidewalks, roads, bridges, and homes. They also helped in the construction of the Evangelical, Lutheran, and Mennonite churches.

Roy married Josephine Burkey. Living descendants are Mrs. Clayton (Geraldine) Summer, whose children are Carole Beebe, Leroy Summer, and Nancy Farischoen and whose grandchildren are Douglas, Gregory Beebe, Chad, and Kara Farischoen.

Clyde Smith continued in the business after the death of his brother until a short time before his own death. Living descendants are James Smith, and Mary Lee Simpson, Oswego, Illinois. In addition, the grandchildren are Shelli, Shawn, Tara, and Jason Smith. Bruce, Mark, and Craig Simpson. His wife, the former Mary Musselman, resides at 100 North Elm Street.

Shelby John Smith served the city of Washington as alderman, street commissioner, and city engineer before

becoming a farmer. He married Mina Bowen in 1914. They leased the Asa Danforth farm at the south edge of town from 1914-1923, when they moved to the Bowen farm north of Washington (107 Metamora Rd.), where his son Shelby B. Smith farms today. Living descendants are: children; Ellen Dingman of Prophetstown, Beulah Montgomery, and Shelby Smith; grandchildren; David and Martha Dingman, Mary Montgomery Podesta, Susan and Robert Montgomery, and Steven Smith; great grandchildren) Lisa Dingman, Margo and Steven Smith. One grandson, Stanley Smith, gave his life in Viet Nam.

Mary E. (Nellie) Smith spent her early life in Washington. In 1900 she married William Mahle, son of a well-known Washington family and then moved to a farm near Rankin, Illinois, where she raised her family; a son, Richard, of Chillicothe and a daughter, Frances Schertz, of Metamora. Upon retiring, they moved to Peoria, Illinois, where she passed away in 1942. Grandchildren are Dale Schertz of Eureka, William Mahle of Eldridge, Iowa, and John Mahle of Peoria. Great grandchildren are Craig Schertz of Metamora, Illinois, Randy Schertz of Eureka, Illinois, Ross Schertz, Peoria, Illinois, and Angela and Gregory Mahle of Eldridge, Iowa. Great-great grandchildren are Tracy and Kerri Ann Schertz.

William Smith and his son, William Jr., were also carpenters. They built the Denhart home, now the White Funeral Home. The senior Smith lost an arm in the family sawmill as a young man but continued his work until he fell to his death from a Washington home. His daughter, Miss Annie Smith — former resident, school teacher, and employee of the Denhart Bank lives in San Diego. One daughter, Mrs. Frank (Etta) Thomas, has two daughters now living in Peoria. Helen, a former school teacher and Angie, a Cilco employee. Homer, a son, resides in California.

Fred Smith, who was blinded in youth, spent his declining years studying his Braille Bible and singing hymns of faith.

A son, Robert Smith, oldest living descendant of this family resides in an apartment near the New Castle Home. He also was a carpenter. A son, Robert Smith, Jr., resides in Eugene, Oregon. A grandson is Byron Smith.

David Smith was an infantryman in the Civil War and died in Springfield enroute home from the War.

#### THE VICTOR SCHWARTZENTRAUB'S

In 1832 a group of Mennonites emigrated to America. The ship was a small two-masted schooner. Extensive preparations were made by the hundred emigrants, including all the necessities of maintaining their living, even homespun linens, which are still in the homes of many of the descendants. They left Bremen May 16, and landed in Baltimore July 31. After a rest,

they engaged wagons of the prairie-schooner type to convey the group to Wheeling, West Virginia. This took them through the Allegheny Mountains, a trip of 13 days. At Wheeling they took passage on a steamboat on the Ohio River to Cincinnati, then on to Hamilton, Ohio, on September 3. Here the family of Daniel Brenneman and two other families rented a large house for the winter, the children receiving their instructions



from the tutor brought with them. They made this their home until 1854, when they came to Illinois down the Ohio River to Cairo. Then they continued down to Pekin, where they were met by friends who took them to Danvers, where they lived a year before purchasing a farm in Boynton Township. This place is still in the possession of descendants. Mrs. John Schwarzenraub (Emma Springer) mother of Victor Springer Schwarzenraub was a descendant of this family. Her mother, Elisa Brenneman, married Peter Springer. Other names familiar to many Mennonites are: Iutzi, Hauter, Ehrsmann, Orndorf, Tomm, and Bender. (Victor Bender was a noted journalist.) The Springers came from France, where a brother, Christian, served as a personal bodyguard to Napoleon Bonaparte and was in the memorable battle at Waterloo. He was born in France in 1792 and died in Danvers in 1879 as reported by the **Danvers Independent**.

Much of the original Hof Bubenrod, located near Konigsberg, Germany, near Gesen has been repaired after the invasion of the Poles and is an agricultural experimental station. One of the descendants and his family still live there.

The Hoeflin-Moehl families, among others, fled the homeland during the great conflict of the Russians and Hessians in the early 1800's. Andrew Hoeflin fought in the Civil War and was blinded. They made their home in the Hollands Grove area as did the Mehls and others coming from the same area. With the passing of George Andrew Moehl in World War I, the lineage was ended. It is thought, however, that because of the differences in the interpretation of the alphabet, there is a connection in the names of Mehl, Mohl, Moehle, Mahle, etc.

George Andrew Moehl was Valedictorian of the senior class of W. H. S. in 1913 and a junior in the Kent College of Law in Chicago before he enlisted in the U. S. Naval Reserves at Great Lakes.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Schwarzenraub are lifetime residents of Tazewell County. Mr. Schwarzenraub lived in Morton before his marriage to Augusta Moehl of Washington January 1, 1923. They have celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. They have lived their years on the same farm which was the overnight stopping place of President Lincoln on his way to Metamora, where he

held court. This was related to them by the Jacquins, who lived on the east edge of Washington where the present Cook residence is located.

Mr. Schwarzenraub before his retirement raised and registered Brown Swiss cattle and was a member of the Illinois Brown Swiss Association, a charter member of the Tazewell County Farm Bureau, and an active participant in the 4H program. He was Director, Secretary, and President of the Crugar Elevator over 25 years before their consolidation with the Eureka Company, active in the St. Mark's Lutheran Church, having served as Deacon, Elder, Sunday School Superintendent, teacher of the Intermediate Boys' Class, Co-Chairman of the Building Committee and member of the Brotherhood. He was also active in educational affairs as a Director of the Pleasant View Elementary School, President of the Consolidated School 622, Director of the Washington High School. He only recently completed his term on the County Board of School Trustees, a position he has held since its organization. He was a member of the local Community Fund and Fire District, member of the Legion, Hopewell Grange and Kennel Lake Sportsmen Club.

Mrs. Schwarzenraub has been a lifetime resident of Washington, as were her parents and grandparents. Their son John and his family are the fourth and fifth generations and live on the family farm, since the Victor Schwarzenraub's retirement. She was a teacher in the Elementary School in Washington. She was active in the St. Mark's Lutheran Church, enrolling in the Sunday School in 1905 when it was located where the present Smith residence is located on Walnut Street. She has served as teacher of the Intermediate Girls' Class, President of the Gloria Dei and Golden Rule Circle. She was also active in the Home Bureau, having served as local Unit Chairman, President of the County Association and Vice-President of the Illinois Federation of Home Bureau and a leader of a local girls 4H Club. Other activities include the local and District Woman's Club, Town and Country Garden Club, President of the County Women of the Farm Bureau and Chairman of District #7 of the Women of the Farm Bureau and on the State Committee. A member of the Gold Star Group of the Legion Auxiliary, her brother, George A. Moehl, was the first World War I casualty.

Their son Paul and his family live in Kirkwood, Missouri, where he is District Manager of The American States Insurance Company. Both sons married Morton girls. John married Doris Dausman, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. William J. Dausman and has four children: Mary (Mrs. Patrick Catania) a Western University graduate; John, a graduate of Illinois Central; Carol, a student at Eastern; and Barbara, in grade school.

Paul married Rosemary Rapp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Rapp. They have four children: Paula and Mark, students at Columbia University; Ellen, a junior in the Kirkwood High School; and Eric, in grade school.



#### STAUDENMAIER—VAN DYKE

The Lewis T. Van Dyke family of 317 West Crugar Road has lived in this city over fifty years. They had one daughter, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Mr. Van Dyke came from Eureka, Illinois, in 1924. He worked for the T.P. & W. Railroad for forty-six years and is now retired.

Mrs. Van Dyke (Viola) was the daughter of George and Mary Staudenmaier, also here over fifty years. A brother, Alvin, who was a post office employee is now retired and living in Bloomington, Illinois.

George Staudenmaier came to Washington at the age of eleven from Whittenburg, Germany. He worked for Mr. Morgan Jenkins, a coal dealer. He also handled ice, which was shipped in by train from Pekin. It arrived in long sheets or cakes, after which it was cut and put in a large building, then covered with sawdust to keep it

from melting. He had a blue covered wagon drawn by two horses. At the age of eight to sixteen, I (Viola) drove these horses from one house stop to the next, and my Dad would weigh and wash the ice and carry it by ice tongs and put it in the ice boxes. From all directions kids would come and get pieces of ice to eat. If there were no pieces he would chip some. After we had our route done for the day, we would come home and then haul coal about town. My brother, about five years of age, would sit up on the high seat and Dad would let him hold the ends of the reins, and he thought he was driving the horses.

We think our Dad was an important man about town, for he would keep people cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

I'm sure some memories must come back to some of the older folks who used to follow the ice wagon.

#### FRANK W. STEIMLE

In 1921, the Zinser Drug Store was purchased by Mr. Frank W. Steimle, who was born on February 1, 1893, in Kewanee, Illinois, a son of Joseph and Adalie Steimle. His formative years were spent in that city, and in 1913 he graduated from the Northwestern University College of Pharmacy. Following his graduation, Mr. Steimle attended the Indianapolis School of Pharmacy (Butler University) for a nine-month course. He was married to Miss Rose Carlson in Kewanee in 1915, and they moved to Washington after he had purchased the drug store. With the purchase, the name was changed to Steimle Drug Store. Mr. Steimle continued the drug business in that location until a disastrous fire occurred in 1931. The drug store was then moved into the adjacent building to the north where it remained until his death on January 16, 1959.

Mr. Steimle was for years one of the leading citizens of Washington, having served as a member of the Board of Education for the Washington Grade School for ten years and city alderman for twelve years. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, Civic Club, Rotary Club of Washington, a Mason, and Mohammed Shrine of Peoria.

Mr. Steimle's Drug Store was the gathering place for all of the young people of the town. It was here, at the soda fountain, that the out-of-town basketball scores were phoned in so that the ones at home could check



with Mr. Steimle as to the scores of the game. During one winter when snowbound roads kept everyone from traveling to Roanoke by car for the game, Mr. Steimle called and made arrangements for the Santa Fe Railroad to take the teams and its many fans to Roanoke. Young people loved Mr. Steimle for his interest in them. During the forty-seven years he was in Washington, fifty-six high school youths worked for him. He saw the town grow from 1,700 in 1922, to 8,000 plus in 1969.

Mr. and Mrs. Steimle had two daughters, Mrs. Eleanor Muller who lives in Riverside, California, and Mrs. Shirley Harris, of Cleveland, Ohio. Mrs. Steimle has five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

#### WILDE E. STORMER FAMILY

The descendants of the Wilde E. Stormer family still occupy the Stormer family home, located at 510 Walnut St., Washington, Ill. This home was built in 1904 by the late Wilde E. Stormer. It remains much the same as when it was first occupied, with many of the original furnishings still intact. Harold W. Stormer (deceased), a son of Wilde E. Stormer, passed along the heirloom

dwelling and contents to his widow, Mary C. Stormer, and to his daughter, Mrs. Myra Ann Stormer Liebhart, to be handed down to his granddaughter, Julie Ann Liebhart, and her descendants and so on. It has been strictly a Stormer family dwelling place throughout these 70 years.

Wilde E. Stormer was a prominent Washington, Illinois, businessman, born and raised in the community.

During the years 1901-1914, he owned and operated an implement and hardware store along with his brother (Dean Stormer). It was known as Stormer Brothers Implement Store. Later Wilde E. Stormer became the sole owner of the store. The store was located where the parking lot now stands, just north of the City Square.

Mr. Stormer was a volunteer fireman and operated one of the first automobile agencies in Washington, Illinois. He was one of the few owners of an automobile and was always on hand to drive anyone to Peoria, Illinois, or elsewhere.

Mr. Stormer's father, Conrad Stormer, had come to this vicinity in 1847. He was born in the village of Hittenrath, Kries Fankenberg, Kuhr Hessian Germany, March 13, 1838. He came to America with his parents when he was eight years old. The ocean trip was made in a three-masted sail boat, and it took eight weeks and three days to make the trip. They landed in New Orleans about the middle of December, 1846. There they boarded a small steamboat, sailed up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and landed in Peoria, Illinois, at the foot of Main Street between Christmas and New Years. They decided to locate in Holland's Grove, near Washington, Illinois. Here they built themselves a home.

Conrod Stormer lived with his parents until his marriage on February 14, 1860, when he was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Nolen of Washington, Illinois. They built a large home in the timber where Mr. Stormer operated his sawmill. All this land is now part of the Caterpillar Tractor Company Proving Grounds.

They were the parents of seven children: Mrs. Flora Hughes, Mrs. Nellie Barnum, Wilde Stormer, Luther Stormer, and Dean Stormer (two children having died in infancy).

Mr. Conrod Stormer had his likeness preserved in stone for his grave marker in Glendale Cemetery in Washington, Illinois. J. Andre Petardes of Peoria, Illinois, did the sculpturing, which required more than a year. Being a woodsman and well known for his achievements, the carving designates the theme, by way of the woodsman's ax, vines, leaves, and roots. This was made some 65 years ago. It is truly a work of art and beauty.

Mrs. Conrod Stormer passed away on December 4, 1908. Mr. Conrod Stormer died November 13, 1913. Mr. Wilde E. Stormer followed in 1914.



#### STRUBHAR FAMILY

In 1919 Vernon I. Strubhar and Jessi E. Strubhar, sons of Joseph and Phoebe Strubhar, who were among the first settlers in the Washington area, purchased Lou Hoeflin's hardware business. This was shortly after World War I, and this business was located on the corner now occupied by Don's Pharmacy. Later, that particular building was sold, and the Strubhar Brothers moved to the present location of Dick Scott's Hardware. They operated in that location for approximately ten years and then sold out to Chet Miller, thus dissolving the partnership.

In 1933 Mr. V. I. Strubhar reentered business, buying a sheet-metal shop from Harry Kimpling. He operated this business from the building where the Fab & Trim Shop is presently located. Later, Mr. Strubhar purchased the hardware stock of the Modern Hardware Company located at the present site of George Herbst's business. Mr. Strubhar's wife Ruth joined her husband in the operation of this business. In 1940 Strubhar sold the hardware stock to R. G. Herbst. He continued to operate a sheetmetal shop from his home.



#### THE SWEITZER FAMILY

John and Mary (Engel) Sweitzer emigrated from Saarbours, a province of Lorraine, France, in 1832. They stayed in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, a while and in 1833 came by horse team and covered wagon to Woodford County, Illinois. They settled on Partridge Creek near a place called Black Partridge, named after an Indian Chief. They farmed there until 1851, when they moved to a 320-acre farm a mile south and west of Cooper Station, bought from the original owner, a Mr. Phillips.

There were four sons and five daughters. Two of the children were born in France, one in Pennsylvania, and the rest in Illinois. The oldest son got the Western fever in the mid '50's and took the Oregon trail for Portland, where he married a Galesburg girl he had met on the trail. He became a captain and pilot of a Pacific coast-wise steamer operating between Portland, Oregon,

In 1948 V. I. Strubhar built and located his business in the building which is presently the location of V. I. Strubhar & Sons, 203 Peoria Street. In 1946 Donald Strubhar joined his father's firm, and plumbing sales and service were added to the sheetmetal business. In 1951 Vernon I. Strubhar, Jr. joined the firm.

V. I. Strubhar, Sr. retired in 1960 and passed away in 1964. The business continues at the present location, owned and operated by the two sons, Vern and Don, and has been expanded to include air conditioning and a "Do-It-Yourself Home Improvement Center".

During his lifetime, Mr. Strubhar, Sr. was active in the community and in his church. He was a member of the Calvary Mennonite Church where he taught a Sunday School Class for many years. He also served on the City Council, on the Washington Grade School Board, was a member of the Fire Department, and was a director on the Board of the Washington Building & Loan.

His sons continue this tradition of community service, Don having served on the Washington Grade School Board and as a member of the Fire Department and Vern serving presently as a Councilman and on the Board of Directors of the Washington Building & Loan.

Most of the V. I. Strubhar family continue to reside in Washington. Mrs. Strubhar divides her time between Washington and Lakeland, Florida, where she visits her daughter Mildred, who is an anesthetist at Lakeland General Hospital. Residing in Washington are Don, his wife Charlene, who is also bookkeeper and secretary for the Strubhar firm, and their two sons, Gregory, who is employed by the firm, and Timothy; Vern and his wife Jackie, owner and operator of The Flower Box, and their two sons, Peter and Andrew; and Joan who is married to Dr. John Lichtenwalter, local optometrist. The Lichtenwalter's daughter Susan is Mrs. Marshall Neal of Greenville, South Carolina.

and San Francisco. In 1858 he went down with his ship in a storm near San Francisco after seeing most of the passengers rescued. His younger brother, Joseph, followed some years later and married the widow of Christian, the older brother. Joseph became a mate on a Columbia River steamer, and he also drowned due to a boiler explosion. The descendants of these two are living in the Portland area and in San Francisco.

Three of the girls married and had children who moved to Minnesota around the turn of the century. The oldest daughter, Barbara, married Peter Strubhar and some of their offsprings are living here. Frances married Emanuel Garber, Sr., and there are numerous descendants of that union in the vicinity.

John Sweitzer II married a Miss Naffzinger. There were two sons and two daughters, one of whom, Mattie, in her 93rd year is still living. Other descendants of this



family living here are Mrs. George (Celia) Ebert and Mrs. John (Ivy) Voelker.

Peter, the youngest son of the immigrant, married Rachel Engel, youngest daughter of John Engel from Metamora. Two daughters died in infancy; Willard and Fred were the sons.

Peter inherited part of the home place at Cooper and bought the rest from the other heirs. He was Supervisor from Morton Township for twenty-six years, about half of that time as Chairman of the Board. He was on the building committee for the present Court House at Pekin and was in charge of the dedication ceremonies in June of 1916. He was also chairman of the Cooper

#### THE THOMAS FAMILY

One of Washington's first settlers was Henson Thomas who was born in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1806 and moved to Washington prior to 1830. He died in Washington in 1846 and is buried in the Union Cemetery northwest of the city. He was married to a Miss Heath and following her death, to Rachel Stevenson. Both were from Ohio and are buried in the Union Cemetery.

Two of his sons, William and Simon, farmed northwest of Washington and leave descendants in this area. This narrative is concerned with the family of Simon Thomas.

Simon Thomas was born in 1845 and died in his home at 117 N. High St. in 1940. He farmed in the Washington area all of his life. He married the former Angie Harding in 1870 and had five sons and a daughter, the daughter dying in infancy.



School Board and chairman of the Morton Township High School Board when that school was built about 1904. He was President of the Cooper Farmer's Elevator. He moved to Washington in 1917.

Willard entered the Army in June, 1918, and was bound for Europe in November when the Armistice was signed. He served as alderman of the city several terms. He was the third Commander of American Legion Post 100 and Past Master of Taylor Lodge #98. He was last employed at Hiram Walker's and retired in 1953. He died in 1971.

Fred entered the First Officers' Training Camp at Fort Sheridan in May of 1917 and was appointed Captain of Infantry August 15. He was assigned to 92nd Division at Camp Grant and served as Regimental Adjutant, 365th Infantry, of that division for the duration of the war. He was overseas from June 1918 to February 1919 and on the front line about three months. Fred was in the St. Die sector, the Argonne Forest, and the Pont-a-Mousson sector in front of Metz when November 11th came and the war was over. About a year after being discharged, he was appointed a Major in the Reserve Corps and Lieutenant Colonel in 1927. He helped organize and was elected Commander of Washington Post #100 in 1919, Justice of the Peace of Washington Township from 1924 to 1948. From 1920 to about 1950, he participated as Mounted Marshal of Metamora Day Parades and others including the 100th Anniversary in 1925. He retired from twenty-nine plus years of work at Couch & Heyle in January of 1959.

The oldest son, Cloyde, lived most of his life in Clarion, Iowa, and left a number of descendants in that area. His third son, William Harding, married Lulu Hornish of Washington and also settled in the Clarion, Iowa area and left a large family in Iowa.

The fourth son of Simon Thomas, Clarence, lived most of his life in Peoria and has several descendants living there today.

The second son, Frank, married the former Etta Smith of Washington and farmed in the Washington area all of his adult life. He had a son, Homer, living in California, and two daughters, Helen and Angie Thomas, former Washington residents now living in Peoria. He is also survived by two grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

The youngest son of Simon Thomas, Charlie, married the former Anna Willhardt of Washington and was a farmer in the Washington area. He is survived by two children; Clara, married to Gilbert Muller and living at 803 Morris St., and Robert, married to Evangeline Grubisich of Norris, Ill. and living at 604 South High Street. Robert is employed at WABCO in Peoria. Clara has three sons, all living in Washington; Wayne of 210 Vohland St., George of rural Washington, and Gerald of 407 Hillcrest Drive, and five grandchildren.



#### **HENRY VOGELSANG**

Henry Vogelsang, 1974 Washingtonian Award winner, was born in a log house northwest of Washington in 1890. His parents were Christian and Matilda Heitzman Vogelsang. His siblings were Fred, Elizabeth (who married J. Valentine Willhardt), Lena (who married

John B. Blumenshine), Bertha (who married Crawford Bradle), Rudolph (who married Clara Dingledine), and Ralph (who married Lottie Zinser).

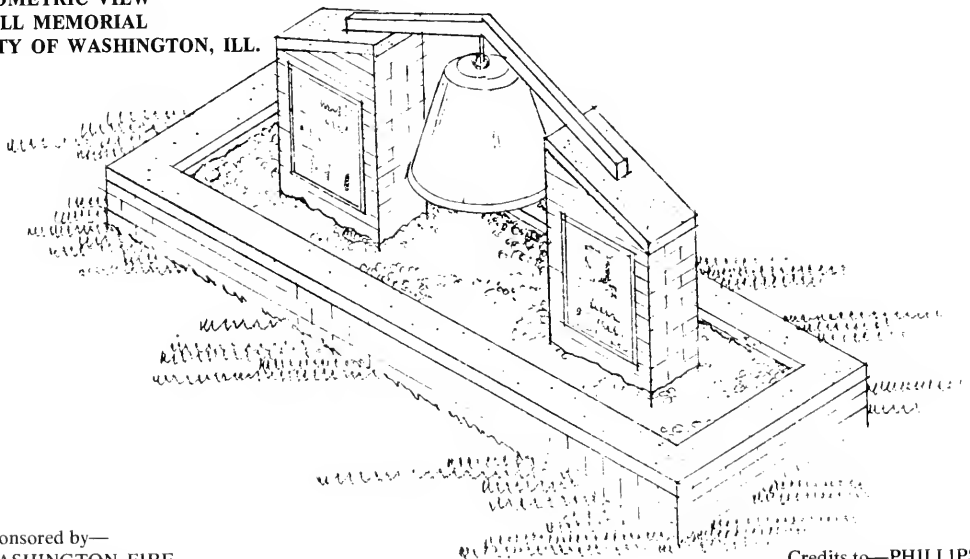
As a young man, Henry Vohland drove a horse-drawn wagon delivering kerosene to Washburn, Lowpoint, Cazenovia, Metamora, and Morton as well as the grocery stores in Washington. The wagon had three compartments. Kerosene was measured into five-gallon buckets and poured into the stores' bulk cans. Store customers brought their own containers to be filled by clerks. Vogelsang filled the tank-wagon about six A. M., made the deliveries, and was paid a dollar and one-half for his labor.

Henry Vogelsang began farming in 1910. In 1923 he began working in Peter Garber's Ford Garage located at the site of the present Lindy's Food Market parking lot. He bought into the garage and sold Fords until 1958. During those years he taught many people to drive cars. If a student drove a car into the ditch, he'd say "You drove it into the ditch, you drive it out". With his instructive help, the student did drive it out.

For many years Mr. Vogelsang commuted from his home in Peoria to his work in Washington. In October 1941, he and his wife, the former Pearl Knopf, whom he married August 11, 1925, moved to Washington to their present home.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **ISOMETRIC VIEW BELL MEMORIAL CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILL.**



Sponsored by—  
**WASHINGTON FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

Credits to—**PHILLIPS  
SWAGER ASSOCIATES**

## CITY GOVERNMENT

**T**he earliest official records of the City date back to August 20, 1838. At that time the town was organized as a town and was governed by a Town Board of four Trustees. William Holland was president and Board members were E. A. Whipple, J. Kern, B. Allen and A. H. Danforth.

The town was incorporated under a special act of the Legislature of the State of Illinois, passed February 10, 1857. On March 25, 1857 the Board of Trustees met and organized. Members of this Board were John L. Marsh, R. B. M. Wilson, James Smith, Dan L. Miles and Jacob Sonneman. John L. Marsh was the first president; R. C. Dement, clerk; Thomas Cress, constable; Asa H. Danforth, treasurer; Thomas Fish, street commissioner.

The present organization under the General Incorporation Act, was effected in the manner directed in that Act, an election held March 2, 1878, having determined the question of becoming a City under the general law.

The first election was held April 16, 1878. Peter Fifer was elected the first mayor. The following are the mayors who have since been elected: second, Ben Tobias, 1879; third, L. S. North, 1881; fourth, J. G. Gorin, 1883; fifth, W. B. Harvey, 1885; sixth, W. B. Harvey, 1887; seventh, H. R. Danforth, 1889; eighth, G. W. Cress, 1891; ninth, J. H. Anthony, 1893; tenth, Ben Tobias, 1895; eleventh, Ben Frederick, 1897; twelfth, H. L. Price, 1899; thirteenth, H. L. Price, 1901; fourteenth, D. J. Chaffer, 1903; fifteenth, C. P. Cress, 1905; sixteenth, Ed L. Meyers, 1907; seventeenth, R. F. Tanton, 1909; eighteenth, I. W. Miller, 1911; nineteenth and twentieth, D. J. Chaffer, 1913, 1915; twenty-first and twenty-second, E. H. Robert, 1917, 1919; twenty-third, F. S. Harvey, 1921; twenty-fourth, Chris Ebert, 1923; twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, George H. Rinkenberger, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1931; twenty-ninth, Chris Ebert, 1933; thirtieth, thirty-first, George H. Rinkenberger, 1935, 1937; thirty-second, thirty-third, thirty-fourth, John P. White, 1941, 1945, 1949; thirty-fifth, Earl M. Zimmerman, 1953; thirty-sixth, thirty-seventh, Donald C. Guedet, 1957, 1961; thirty-eighth, John L. Blumenshine, 1965; thirty-ninth, Wallace B. Asbury, 1966; fortieth, Robert J. Hult, 1969; forty-first, Thomas E. Boyd, 1972; and forty-second, Edward Habecker, Jr., 1973.

Until 1953 the City was divided into three wards. Now there are four voting districts with two alderman elected from each district.

Meetings of early Boards were held in the homes of the Trustees, until in 1878, two rooms over the L. S. North Store on the north side of the Commercial Square were rented from Andrew Von Hoeflin for \$87.50 per year. J. W. Dougherty, a lawyer, and the Township were to also share occupancy of these rooms and share the expense.

In 1901 records indicate the Board was evidently dissatisfied with the condition of the rooms. A letter to the Board from A. A. Heflin states he would be agreeable "to put the room in good condition, viz: paper, paint, etc. and keep it so." But the Board rented a Council room from M. C. Martini for \$60 per year.

In 1910 the Rent, Light and Fuel Committee reported they had rented the upper floor of the Noy Building for \$75 per year. Alderman Miller moved that the committee be instructed to make arrangements for fitting up the said room and put a railing across the north end and furnish the room in good shape for the use of the Council.

Records indicate rent was paid to J. W. Miller from 1914 until 1924, when, after voter approval in an April 15, 1924, referendum, the Danforth Hotel, built in 1886, was purchased for \$9,000 to house city offices. A new City Hall was constructed in 1969 at 115 West Jefferson to house city offices and police headquarters.



The brick bandstand, which stood over the public well, was torn down in 1959 and replaced by a lighted fountain and pool. This was dedicated in May 1963 by the Town and Country Gardeners "to represent the heritage of the pioneer spirit received from the founders of our city" that its citizens may be inspired to cherish beautiful surroundings."

In a further effort to beautify the downtown area, Peoria Street is being widened and resurfaced from the Square to Wood Street with decorative lighting and plantings.

Water and sewage treatment facilities are municipally owned and operated. Sewerage treatment facilities were first built in 1950 at the foot of Woodlawn Trail. A second sewer plant at the foot of Ernest Street is nearing completion, after voters approved issuance of \$800,000 to pay part of the cost of improving sewerage treatment facilities and build additional interceptors. Federal and State grants totaling \$1,850,000 will supply the additional funds necessary to complete the project.

Electricity and gas are supplied by the Central Illinois Light Company and telephone service by the General Telephone Company of Illinois.

Freight rail service is provided by the Toledo, Peoria and Western, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, and the Illinois Central Gulf.

The original town was situated around a public square and extended for a half mile each way as determined by official action of the Board on May 4, 1839, to contain one square mile. Today the town has grown to a land area of 5.4 square miles or 3,456 acres with forty-three miles of streets and a population of 9,466.

To manage the affairs of a growing city with about forty employees, the Mayor and Council appointed its first City Administrator Rod D. Clausen, on May 1, 1972.

Washington is a residential city, with negligible industry, but with ample banking and shopping facilities to serve the population. The majority of residents are employed by Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria, Illinois.

#### WATER SYSTEM

A public water works system was installed in the City of Washington in 1894. At that time the City's water supply was provided by a dug well located in the public square near the center of town. Well No. 2 was drilled in 1894, three hundred feet southeast of the dug well, for emergency uses and later for filling truck tanks. In 1944 Chris Ebert drilled Well No. 3, eight hundred fifty feet southeast of the dug well. During the same year Chris Ebert drilled another well, ten feet west of Well No. 3. Well No. 5 was drilled in 1952 at the corner of North Main and West Jefferson.

Washington's raw water supply is presently provided by Wells No. 6 and No. 7. Both wells were drilled in 1960 by Chris Ebert and are located near the present



water treatment plant, which was constructed in 1960 north of the present City Hall.

The present water tower has a 500,000 gallon capacity and was built in 1960. It replaced an elevated 50,000 gallon capacity tank which was located on the Square. The old tank was sold to Deer Creek in 1962.

Raw water was softened, the iron removed, chlorine added, and fluoride was added in the summer of 1968 in compliance with an Illinois State Statute requiring the fluoridation of all public water supply systems.

All of the City is served by water except Pine Lakes Country Estates Subdivision, Beverly Manor Subdivision and Rolling Meadows Subdivision. Pine Lakes Subdivision is served by the Northern Tazewell Water District. Future plans include extending water service to Beverly Manor.

The present average daily usage is 800,000 gallons or about 70 gallons per capita per day.

#### LIGHTS

In the 1880's the City was using oil lamps for street lighting. A contract was made with the Sun Electric Light Company and signed February 3, 1891. The incandescent light boiler blew up and destroyed the plant February 4, 1895. The plant was then moved near the depot and arc lights installed. The Eagle Electric Company was installed in 1900 with arc lights.

By May 15, 1902, we had electric lights and meters were installed later. We had all night lights by the following fall. Price for a good meter was twenty dollars; the Eagle Electric Company expected the users of light and power to pay light meter rent, sufficient to pay interest on the meters at a rate of no more than five to ten cents a month for the users.

On March 17, 1911 fire destroyed the plant of Washington Light and Power Company. As soon as possible a transmission line from Peoria was installed and furnished twenty-four hour service.

In 1912 Central Illinois Light Company began to furnish lights for the City of Washington and have continued to do so.



## TELEPHONE COMPANIES

George M. Myers, with other parties, bought the Washington Bell telephone outfit in 1903 and a year later he took full control. Under his management the exchange was rebuilt. In 1905 he placed the wires in the business part underground, an improvement which very few cities had. The extending of the toll line to Pekin and various points is the result of his efforts to please his patrons.

The Washington Home Telephone Company dates back to at least 1913. On November 24, 1913 John F. Atwater, manager, sent the following letter to the customers of the old Home Telephone Company. Please notice Mr. Atwater mixes the new telephone rates with a little homespun philosophy which we could all benefit from even today. It reads as follows:

November 24, 1913

### TO OUR PATRONS:

To be served faithfully, to be treated courteously, to be accorded the same treatment as other patrons receive, is the right of all. Special favors or special privilege is the right of none. A square deal consists in treating all exactly alike.

We have completely overhauled our central office equipment, and much of the outside construction. We have equipped our switchboard with selective party line ringing devices, whereby anyone of two or more persons on a line can be called without ringing the bell of any other subscriber on the line. This does away with much of the inconvenience of the party line.

In the past, some inequalities in rates or service, grew into the business. The present owners desire to treat all patrons exactly alike. The law requires that to be done. To that end we ask that, beginning December 1, 1913, all patrons in the city exchange, pay according to the following schedule:

Party Line, residence .....	\$1.25 per month
Private Line, residence .....	1.50 per month
Business .....	2.00 per month
Extensions .....	.50 per month

It is our desire to give the very BEST service possible. Much depends upon the subscriber. We ask your help to that end. We want you to have ALL the service possible. We give you connection over both Bell and Independent Long Distance Lines. Every new subscriber that we get is adding just that much more to the value of YOUR service. Help us to get the new subscriber.

We try to teach our employees to be courteous and obliging. If they are not report the matter to us. If they are, it will please them to receive a word of commendation. They are human. Their work is exacting. They can't always be at their best. Speak as if face to face. Come and see them work. We want you to visit us. It will interest you and help us.

Yours to serve,  
WASHINGTON HOME TELEPHONE SERVICE  
Per John F. Atwater—Manager

After a series of mergers and purchases over a period of forty years, the telephone company was finally purchased by and became General Telephone Company, as it is presently known today. There has been remarkable growth in the number of telephones in the Washington exchange. In 1959 there were 2800 telephones; today there are over 6000. The actual and predicted growth in telephones led to the construction of the present central office building at 507 Peoria Street in 1961. It presently houses central switching facilities, servicemen reporting center, and the business office operation.



Most Washington residents welcomed the telephone company's announcement that extended area service (EAS) would come to Washington in 1960. This service of course allowed for free calling to East Peoria and Peoria. The next year it was announced that Washington residents would receive direct distance dialing. This meant that Washington residents could now place long distance calls merely by dialing a series of numbers.

Lowering the rates is usually the exception rather than the rule for a telephone company or any other company. However, in 1966 the telephone company did announce that it would reduce many types of long distance calls. It was projected that on a statewide basis it would provide an annual savings of eight and one-half million dollars.

The telephone company installed automatic number billing equipment in 1974. This allowed automatic billing of a toll call without the operator cutting in to bill the number. Touch-calling (projected for December of 1974) and other changes helped evolve the Washington telephone company into the facility we know it as today.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Information regarding the beginning of the Washington police department is quite hard to find.

In 1859, a lot on Jefferson Street was bought for \$175.00 and a contract to build the jail or calaboose was awarded to James Smith and Sons for \$136.00. This is the site of the present firehouse. After this calaboose was closed, the next one was located on the south side of the square by the firehouse near the water tower.

In the early 1900's the constable and street commissioner's job was taken care of by the same person. From 1862 to 1868 Harmon Bunn was town constable. In 1886, William Jones was appointed city marshal; he is the grandfather of Ray Z. Jones, a resident of Washington. Scott Norris was police chief. The constable or city marshal collected all fines. People were assessed fines for allowing any animals to run at large, not just dogs.

During those years the T P & W, the Santa Fe, and Chicago and Alton Railroads had a total of sixteen trains through town a day. It was the duty of the police to meet the evening trains from Peoria.

Citizens serving on the police force of Washington over the years include the following: Scott Norris, Ray Portscheller, Rueben Hostetler, Frank Bozarth, Jesse



Weppler, Bruce Birkett, John Blaylock, Oscar Finson, Jake Faubel, Frank Smith, Herman Gross, Orville Ullom and Frank Kopp. Mr. Kopp replaced Orville Ullom, who was believed to be the first police radio operator.

The Washington City Building, which was originally the Danforth Hotel, was located on the square on the corner now occupied by the Standard Service Station parking lot. This was the civic center in its day, offering plays by the Washington Players, movies for a nickel, high school basketball games, dances, dinners, and other town activities in the auditorium. In the rest of the building were meeting rooms, the library, council chambers, and the office of the city clerk and police department. The jail was located in the basement; it eventually became uninhabitable and had to be closed. During that period, prisoners were held temporarily in the old jail until they could be transferred to Pekin, Illinois.

Wednesday nights during the summer were always working nights for the police, for that was band concert night. The square would be lined with cars backed into place to face the bandstand. Young people would be "making the rounds", and there would be the inevitable dog fights. At 10 P.M. a traffic jam as everyone tried to leave at once gave the police force a real headache.

Since the 1950's and 1960's the police department has been quite different. Before this time all fines were paid in Washington to the magistrate. Since then all fines except local parking fines are paid in Pekin, Illinois. In the 1940's and 1950's the police department didn't always have a person to answer the phone. Instead a bell on the outside of the building could be rung from the telephone office. The police would then go to a phone and call the operator to receive the message.



Our present chief of police is Norman Martin who has held the position since 1961. The department has ten police officers, two part-time officers, and five auxiliary police. The department has just employed its first woman police officer. The department has one detective who also

acts as juvenile officer on some occasions, and a juvenile officer who also does regular patrol duty.

The department has four patrol cars equipped with radios which enable officers to contact the police station, Tazewell County cars, and I.S.P.E.R.N. (Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network). Four radio operators and one part-time operator are employed to answer the phone, keep a log of calls, radio messages to police cars, keep a log of where the officers are, type reports, and call fire and rescue squads. The operators use a microfiche machine for license numbers requested by police officers. The operators also contact State Police Headquarters at Germantown and maintain communication with city and township trucks. Records of all incidents reported to the department are kept in locked files and a card is made on each incident for quick and efficient reference.

#### VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

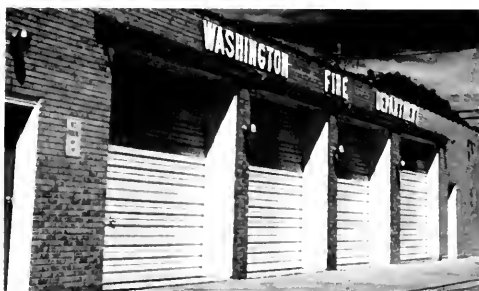
Early records of the Washington fire department are quite hard to find, but the available recorded history seems to begin in 1879 when Ben Tobias was the town's first fire chief. In 1886, a monetary enticement of \$3.00 was offered to a volunteer fireman. The first person to respond to a fire call, by appearing at the station with a team of horses to hitch to the chemical engine, received the three-dollar fee. Records show the purchase of a water and hose car in 1887. The car had round handles on the side with big round rings which enabled the men to pull the cart.

The firehouse at that time was on the south side of the square near the old water tower where a parking lot is now located. An old bell on the water tower was rung for curfew and fires. The bell is presently being re-finished and will be placed as a memorial in front of the present City Building on West Jefferson Street.

In 1924 a LaFrance fire truck was purchased which was used until 1952. The fire department also has a 1935 Ford which was being used in 1952.

That same year Fire Chief Pat Brill initiated a program to raise money for a new firehouse and the purchase of new equipment. The volunteer firemen and local citizens built the present firehouse on West Jefferson. In June 1953, open house was held at the new location showing off the new building and a 500-gallon pumper.

In March of 1957 a 750-gallon pumper was purchased to replace the 1924 LaFrance. Also a truck principally



for use in rural areas was bought with funds which are contributed each year by rural residents for fire protection. At that time the department consisted of twenty volunteers. In 1967 another new truck was purchased which will pump 1,000 gallons per minute.

Each year the firemen have an annual fish fry for members of the department, trustees of the fire district and members of the City Council.

The volunteer fireman also served as rescue squad members in the 1950's and until 1961 when the rescue squad was formed as a separate unit. Before dial phones each fireman was called by the telephone operator from the local telephone office which took a great deal of time, but calls were answered quite promptly considering the routine. Since 1961 when dial phones came in, all firemen are called by the lifting of one phone at the police station which simplifies and hastens the calls.

The present fire trucks are equipped with radios to enable the men to communicate with the fire station and the police station in case additional help is needed. The present department consists of 25 volunteer men.



#### WASHINGTON RESCUE SQUAD

On March 22, 1961 the formation of an emergency squad in Washington, composed of ten men who, in case of a disaster, would assist local authorities with rescue operations, traffic control, and emergency communications, was announced.

Robert Dubois was elected as captain of the group with Charles Joesting serving as lieutenant. Rolla Nieukirk and Donald Banghart were elected sergeants. Other members of the newly-formed Squad included



Eugene Blumenshine, William Shelander, James Jones, Larry Miller, Tom Hexamer, and Tom Finson.

On September 28, 1961 Washington Fire Chief Tom Boyd announced the transfer of the fire department's rescue truck to the emergency squad to be used by the squad as an emergency vehicle. With the transfer of the vehicle, the squad assumed the responsibility of responding to resuscitator and inhalator calls. Also at this time the squad was officially recognized by the Washington City Council, who deemed the unit the Civil Defense organization in the community. The newly acquired emergency truck was housed in the city pump house on the south side of the city square as the fire department garage was not large enough to accommodate the truck for easy exit.



Due to public acceptance and support as well as the increasing need in the community of a trained group to respond to trauma emergencies, the City Council in May, 1963 approved the purchase of a new ¾-ton pick-up truck to be used by the squad for rescue and aid work. This was the first new vehicle operated by the squad and replaced the 1948 GMC vintage vehicle received in the fire department transfer.

The emergency squad remained a separate volunteer organization, with headquarters at the city pump house on the square until September, 1967, when the squad moved to the Washington Fire House. After this move was completed, organizational plans were initiated to make the emergency volunteer unit a permanent part of

the city's emergency services. The Washington Emergency Squad became a part of the Washington Fire Department on June 3, 1968, following approval of the action by the City Council. A motion was made that squad members receive a \$3 payment per man per response. The motion was passed unanimously.

Although the emergency squad became the Washington Fire Department Rescue Squad, the group retained its autonomy by maintaining its own bylaws, electing its own officers, and conducting its own meetings and training sessions, while, at the same time, respecting the authority of the Fire Chief and the general policies of the fire department.

Emergency responses increased by the newly-formed division of the fire department until a decision was reached in August, 1970, that an updated system was needed to notify squad members to respond to an emergency. In November of that year, a Plectron alerting system was initiated, enabling the police dispatcher to alert the entire squad with the press of only one button. This eliminated the need of using the telephone to dial individual members to alert them of a call, as was previously done.



Following installation of the new alerting system, Washington was the first community in Tazewell County to implement a new "911" telephone emergency system enabling area residents to dial only the three-digit number for police, fire, and rescue squad services. Pay phones were converted so "911" could be dialed in Washington without depositing money. Because of the "911" conversion and the Plectron alerting system the rescue squad responding to the scene of an emergency was cut drastically.

Municipal ambulance service was initiated as part of the rescue squad's emergency service to the community on February 20, 1974. The ambulance was purchased by the City through a federal and state grant that awarded Washington 70% funding of the unit. Because of the grant no increase in taxes was necessary to provide the new service. This resulted from the two local funeral home ambulance services indicating their intention to cease emergency ambulance service to the community.

The rescue squad elected to draw up the federal grant draft with consent of the City Council. Six months were needed to complete the document, which was accepted and approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation Office of Transportation Safety on September 28, 1973.

The east end of the fire house was expanded to house both the new ambulance and the existing 1969 model

rescue truck. The new construction also included an equipment clean-up and supply storage room.

Updating training procedures has always been a foremost goal of the squad, with current members being certified as Emergency Medical Technicians by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Responding to over 200 calls per year, the 17-man rescue squad provides optimal specialized life-support emergency care and delivery of victims of accidental injury, life-threatening disease or injury, or acute illness to a medical facility to approximately 15,000 citizens within the City of Washington, the Pleasant View Fire Protection District, and the Central Fire Protection District.

The rescue squad also provides first aid training to citizen groups, implements an invalid marker program throughout its area, provides specialized equipment use during fire calls, assists local police during missing child searches and other police emergencies, and provides speakers for local organizations concerning squad activities.

Current officers and members are: Robert Dubois, Captain; John Kent, Lieutenant; Fred Farischon, Sergeant; Albert Wood, Secretary-Treasurer; James Arn, Donald Banghart, John Crandall, William Hartter, Earl Hietter, Steve Hullcranz, David Kinsinger, Robert Kochendorfer, Willis Meeks, Reverend Arnold Olson, William Shelander, Donald Stewart, and David White.

Honorary members include: Reverend Darrel D. Malcom, Vernon Aberle, and Kenneth E. Gregory.

#### POST OFFICE

There was no railroad or telegraph service in the United States, certainly not in Tazewell County, according to the early history of Washington.

In 1857 Robert Davis reportedly was the ticket agent and telegraph operator of the T.P. & W. railroad.

In 1870 Charles A. Crane was postmaster, appointed in March, 1870. The daily and weekly newspapers could be found at the Post Office. Charles A. Crane, a very sociable man, was always at his post of duty.



The mail was carried by stage or on horse-back, in some places by foot, except where it could be carried by water. Letters, reaching their destination now in two days, would have taken two weeks or more at that time. A letter cost twenty-five cents to send, and twenty-five cents was not always forthcoming. Postage was paid at the end of the route.

The Post Office has been located in a number of places around or near the Square, but in 1962 the Colonial style Post Office was built and dedicated at 106 South High Street.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1924 the Mother's Club held discussions concerning the organization of a public library for Washington. These talks went on through the years until 1927, when there was a committee appointed to interview the mayor (Rinkenberger) concerning the library. Later that year the City promised to furnish a heated and lighted room in the City Building on the square for the purpose of establishing a public library. A library book committee was formed, and the chairman stated that donating suitable books for the library would be greatly appreciated. Also, the Ways and Means committee of the club discussed ways of securing money for the Library Fund. It was decided to put on a play, and this was the first of several others which followed.

The Library Board was elected by the Mother's Club. The first board consisted of the following members: Mrs. Flora Hoeflin, Mrs. Nora Weeks, Mrs. Harriet Zinser, Mrs. Ada Renfer, Mrs. Anna Goddard, and Mrs. Blumenshine.

The library was officially opened on June 15, 1927. Bernice Weeks was the first librarian. She was paid one dollar for each time the library was open. It was decided to open two afternoons and one evening each week. There were one hundred and fifty-three books. The Mother's Club decided to present a book to the library in memory of each member who passed away, and this custom continues to the present time.

Mrs. Margaret Harvey became the third librarian and continued until her death in 1958. She had served twenty-four years.

The library was not tax-supported until a levy was voted in June, 1937, and the first tax money was received in June, 1938. The library moved to the new library building at its present address, 301 Walnut Street, in 1950.

We now have 12,000 volumes in the library, and the latest census shows that we are serving an area of approximately 12,000 people. The staff now includes four persons, and the library is open forty hours per week.

An addition of 5,152 square feet was made in 1970 at a total cost of \$116,037. The basement of the new addition was made into an attractive children's department in 1972. At this time Mrs. Mildred Moyer became head librarian following Mrs. Herma Hammond's retirement.



At this time the library serves the Washington township, a population of 18,366. This comprises an area of fifty-four square miles, including the communities of Washington, Beverly Manor, and Sunnyland.

#### WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT

The Washington Park District is a relative newcomer to the community, but it has already found a place as an important element in the city's growth and serves as a constant source of public pride.



Organized in 1968, the voters elected Noah Hickman, Mrs. Kenneth Richart, John Holtzman, Dr. H. W. Engel, Wilson Kimmell as park commissioners. Officers of the Park Board elected at the organizational meeting of January 16, 1968 were John Holtzman, president; Wilson Kimmell, vice president; and Mrs. Richart, secretary. Melvin O. Moehle accepted the position of Park District attorney.

Immediately the newly-formed Board made plans to purchase 55 acres of land located between Lincoln School and Devonshire Estates belonging to the George Heyl Estate. At a purchase price of \$95,100, the land was officially purchased in July, 1969. Local organizations and individuals contributed over \$7,000 to help the Park District finance and develop the community recreation area now known as Washington Park.

In 1971 Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Weaver donated a 5.6 acre tract of land now known as Weaver Park and designated as a nature study area. On an individual basis the Park District's part time park superintendent, George Curtis, refused to accept his \$1,500 annual salary



and designated that it be put in a special baseball diamond lighting fund. The Park Board recognized Curtis' generosity in 1973 by naming the baseball diamonds in Washington Park. George Curtis Field.

Voters reacted favorably when the Park District asked for passage of a \$260,000 bond referendum to purchase and renovate the Neptune Swim Club in Devonshire Estates. In May, 1972 voters approved the purchase of the pool. An architect was hired to design a second pool at the facility, and Washington Park Pool opened its doors to public swimming May 31, 1973.

With the purchase of the pool and an additional purchase of 90 acres of undeveloped property known as the Schmoeger Estate, the Park Board commissioners realized that a fulltime manager was needed. On February 1, 1973, Ronald Gregg was hired as the Park District's fulltime director.

In seven years the Washington Park District has provided the city with a 55 acre park with picnic, playground, and baseball facilities. It has made public swimming a reality, and it is working to provide open space for the enjoyment of nature.

#### THE WASHINGTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The Washington Recreation Association, as such, was formulated on May 21, 1954. An organizational meeting was held in which "Doc" Thompson was elected President; Andy Anderson, Vice President; Mrs. Dana McConaghy, Secretary; and William Shuck, Treasurer. Bylaws were drawn up on June 1, 1954. The records

show a transfer of funds (\$459.79) from the American Legion Post Junior Baseball Program to the newly organized Washington Recreation Association on the above date.

(Undoubtedly a recreation program of some kind existed for many years prior but did not have a title nor a formal organization. In fact, records will show that through a concerted effort of the religious congregations there was an establishment of a church summer baseball league in the fall of 1923, which was then called the "Inner Church Recreation Association.")

Funding initially came from donations from organizations — the American Legion, the many churches of the area, women's clubs, merchants, individuals and from registration fees of participants plus from specials such as the Donkey Softball Game.

Membership to the Washington Recreation Association actually consisted of representatives from each of the organizations from the Washington community. Old minutes show representatives from the Civic Club, Jaycees, high school, PTA, various churches and also an "at large" representation.

Examination of the ledger sheet reveals the main participation in 1954 was baseball; the number signing up was 143. Dick Van Scyoc was in charge of the program, assisted by Tom Adams. Swimming and teen dances were added in 1955, followed by crafts, badminton, etc. as introduced by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Paxson, along with Arlene Ward.

A "Rec Round-Up" held at the end of the summer as a windup to the summer program was a picnic type of a social which included games such as "Penny Pitch" plus a general get together of everyone involved, which included money-making projects.

In 1957 there was the introduction of a Fishing Rodeo and hobby models. The Board consisted of Glenn Harkins, President; Mabel Dykstra, Vice-President; Rose Crabill, Secretary; and Toby Weyrich, Treasurer.

A Certificate of Incorporation was obtained October 20, 1959, with the Board members being: Maurice E. Young, Richard Alexander, Goldie Clark, George B. Grimm, and Marian Sparling. The purpose and intent was to conduct, administer and maintain recreational facilities for the City of Washington, Illinois, with particular emphasis for recreation for the youth of the community.

In 1959 the records also show a committee study with a view toward establishing a permanent recreational facility, an operating organization of a park district type for the City of Washington.

As the Recreation Association developed, the programs offered led from baseball and general summer games to biddy basketball, hobby models, arts and crafts, and golf, plus dances for seventh and eighth graders, swimming, bowling, and a fishing rodeo. The general summer games were relay, dodge ball, cat and mouse, volleyball, and badminton.

In the 1960's girl's softball was introduced with Jim Johnson as coach, and the games were played at Washington Grade School.

The Washington Recreation Association bylaw was revised in 1969, at which time the Board members were Lyle J. VanHook, James Nutty, and Mary Eschelbach. Provisions were set out as to the purpose and intent, which were to encourage and promote recreational facilities and to develop, by precept and example, the furtherance of good citizenship, fair play, observance of the "Golden Rule" and the highest moral standards; set out the term of the Board members, tenure of the President, policies of the Recreation Association; and provided for amendment of these by-laws.



Further definition was achieved in December, 1972, when the by-laws were again updated to fit the present needs and to hurdle some problems that had developed. The President for 1972 was Jim Maddock, Vice-President was Rudy Kantola, Secretary was Mary Bristol, Treasurer was Jim Carman, and Board members were Ron Lind, Greg Martin, and Bob Ahten. A new development occurred in 1973 with the addition of a newly organized group, the Washington Baseball League. (It is the baseball program arm of the Washington Recreation Association, handled on a volunteer basis, headed by Ludwig Schmidt, President, and Pete Blackman, Player Agent, in the main. Other Board members are Bill Porterfield, Vice-President and head of the umpires; Jackie Legel, Recording Secretary; Ron Gregg, Safety Officer; Don Mitchell, Ways & Means; and Rudy Kantola, Ex-Officio. It works in conjunction with and responds to the Washington Recreation Association.)

The total participation in activities of 1974 is about 1,014 children. The total involvement of people helping out in the program on a voluntary basis is about 275. The Board members are: Sally Charlton, President; Pete Blackman, Vice-President; Verna Lott, Secretary; Jim Carman, Treasurer; and Jim Maddock, Greg Martin, and Rudy Kantola.

There have been a number of changes throughout the years with one exception. That is the purpose and the intent, which still remain as originally intended, to provide recreation facilities and recreation for the youth of the Washington community.



# CHURCHES AND WASHINGTON MINISTERIAL ASSOC.

**B**eing built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.

Collation of Scripture Eph. 2:20-22.



**BEVERLY MANOR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Beverly Manor Missionary Baptist Church is located on Vohland Street in Beverly Manor. The building was purchased from Faith Lutheran Church in August, 1960. The first minister was the Reverend Mark Maddox. The congregation had thirteen charter members.

The Reverend Wayne Camp came to be the minister on January 24, 1965. During the year 1965 a Seminary was started with seventeen students; at present there are twenty-five. An addition to the church was built in 1969, doubling the size of the building. The Reverend Wayne Camp is the present minister, and the present enrollment is three hundred.





### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Washington Missionary Baptist Church was organized at the Roland Manor Baptist Church with twelve charter members on September 17, 1950. In 1949 cottage prayer meetings were held regularly with Brother Lloyd Shipley as leader. The need for a Baptist Church in Washington was felt, and the church was organized with these charter members: San Boughan, Bettye Boughan, Bettye Jean Boughan, James Boughan, Jerry Boughan, Frank Eastes, Minnie Eastes, Lester Lee, LaVerne Lee, Larry Lee, Leland Sawyer, and Ruth Sawyer. Brother R. G. Bryant served as moderator for the organization. Brother Orho Williams brought the message. Brother Lester Lee was called as the first pastor.

At the first business session, it was noted that we be named the Washington Missionary Baptist Church and make application membership into the Illinois Valley State Association, Southern Baptist Convention. It was also decided to make an appointment to discuss buying a lot for a church building.

Sunday School, morning worship, young people's meetings, and evening worship were held in the basement at the home of Brother Sam Boughan. The first musical accompaniment to our voices of praise was an accordeon, which was later replaced by an antique pump organ.

Just one year after our organization, on September 16, 1951, our basement auditorium was dedicated. The guest speaker at the afternoon services was Brother R. G. Bryant. During the first year, the Lord blessed the church with fifty-one additions. It was in March during this first year that the W. M. S. was organized.

In September, 1951, Training Union was organized and officers were approved. The Brotherhood was also organized at this time.

Brother Lee served as our pastor until September, 1952. In December of 1952, Brother Murvel Huffstutler was called to serve as our pastor. On February 19, 1954, the church voted to purchase the residence at 418 North Lawndale for the church parsonage. In the spring of 1955, work began on further construction of our building. On September 18, 1955, our five-year anniversary was held, and the cornerstone was laid. Services were held in our new auditorium on January 1, 1957.

The Eureka Mission was organized as a Southern Baptist Church on May 26, 1957, at the Washington Missionary Baptist Church. In May, 1955, the church voted to sponsor a Mission in Eureka, Illinois, with their morning services reversed so that our pastor and Sunday School officers could serve until the mission could elect its own. Brother Huffstutler served as pastor until June, 1958. Brother Angel was called in August, 1958.

The church operated a kindergarten, which was open to the public from 1961 to 1965. In January, 1963, the church called Rev. Floyd Camp as pastor. The name of the Washington Missionary Baptist Church was changed to First Baptist Church in November of 1963. The Kimpling Building at 1109 Peoria Street was purchased in 1968 to give additional classroom space and parking. George S. Wilson was called as pastor and moved to Washington August 4, 1968. In 1969 the parking lot was moved from the front to the back, and the front lawn was sodded. In 1970 we remodeled the annex, removing the large glass windows and bricking the front of the building. We began a bus ministry in 1972. The church presently has two hundred thirty-four members and maintains a full program of worship, education, and missionary support.



### SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

On February 18, 1970, Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Moline, Illinois, voted to sponsor a missionary, Joseph Sherman, in Washington, Illinois, for the purpose of starting a Missionary Baptist Mission. Pastor Sherman, originally from Moline, moved to this area to attend the Illinois Missionary Baptist Institute.

The first meeting was held at 310 Washington Square where thirty-three persons gathered to hold church services. During the time the congregation waited to have their own church building, they held services at 501 Walnut and 310 North Main. They were able to purchase the property in Westview Addition in April, 1971 and began to build shortly thereafter.



### GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WASHINGTON

Grace Bible Church of Washington assembled for their first worship service on the first Sunday in 1958. This meeting was held in the former Central School Building with approximately eighty persons attending. After a few months the growing congregation purchased this building which was used for the first year. On the first Sunday in 1959, the first service was held in the newly completed building now in use on South Main Street. On 1971 this building was expanded to provide

The mission organized into a New Testament Church in June 1971 at services held in Moline by the sponsoring church. At that time they chose to name the church Salem Missionary Baptist and called Joseph Sherman to remain as pastor.

One member of the congregation was a preacher from Germany, Willie Teubner. He was attending Illinois Missionary Baptist Institute preparing to return to Germany to do mission work.

In April, 1972 Salem voted to sponsor Willie Teubner as a missionary in Germany and to recommend him to the American Baptist Association as a foreign missionary support by designated funds. This was a big step for a young church.

Pastor Sherman was sent to Minnesota to start mission work under the sponsorship of Temple Missionary Baptist Church in September, 1972. The second pastor was Dewey Williams, who continued the work until late in the year 1973, when he was called to serve as pastor of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Granite City, Illinois. The present pastor is Charles Empey. Pastor Empey graduated from Washington High School in 1964 and Illinois Missionary Baptist Institute in 1969. He has served pastorates in Missouri, Mississippi, and Illinois.

The congregation is now meeting in their new building at 1115 Glenn Street.

needed Sunday School rooms, an enlarged sanctuary, and a fellowship hall. Attendance in now about three hundred.

The first words of the church Statement of Faith are "We believe that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God — the whole of the book called the Bible". From this comes the church name and order and also the emphasis on Bible teaching in Sunday School, worship services, Youth meetings, and during the week, in Pioneer Girls, Boys' Brigade, and Wednesday Prayer service. The youth have won national first place three consecutive years in the Bible quiz of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America.

Pastor Wesley Phillips is the minister at Grace Bible Church and has served there since June, 1969. Preceding pastors were Pastor R. O. Ogden and Pastor Ted Shickley.

To further its stated goal to "publish at home and abroad the true plan of Salvation", Grace Bible Church contributes to the support of missionaries on all continents, many of whom have spoken at the church. A number of young people from the church are now in pastoral and missionary service, and others are presently in school for that purpose.

Since its founding the church has used as its theme, the hymn "To God be the Glory — Great Things He Hath Done".



### CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The town of Washington, Illinois was just seven years old when the Washington Christian Church had its beginning in the little school house one-half mile north-west of the city in 1832, known as the "Old Central School" at what is now 601 North Wilmor Road; the school was on the Squire Baker farm. The organization was not perfected until 1834.

The Christian Church was organized by the Reverend Richard McCorkle. It was the second church organization in Washington. For a number of years it worshipped in the upper room of the building that was once known as the Roehm Shoe Store on the corner of Washington Square and South Main Street. Next, they purchased a site on the west side of South High Street. A small brick building was built on this site in 1851. When the congregation outgrew the little brick building, they purchased two lots at 105 North High Street. The second building was dedicated November 28, 1869. It burned from a defective flue on Feb. 17, 1870. The congregation met in the room above Zinser's Drug Store on the corner or North Main Street and Peoria Street until the church was rebuilt on High Street.

### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Faith Lutheran Church is located on the corner of Washington Road and School Street. This church was started in January, 1947, in the home of Leonard Hohenbury. There were six charter members. Their first building on Vohland Street in Beverly Manor was started in September, 1947. It was finished and dedicated in 1948. Their first pastor was the Reverend Russell Cornick, who came in 1955. At that time a parsonage was built.

The present building was erected in 1960. The pastor is the Reverend George Schlueter, who came with his family in September, 1965. They now have 625 members.

The third building was dedicated August 28, 1870. It was an immense edifice with the height to the spire being one hundred twenty-seven feet. A severe electrical storm on October 29, 1876, struck the spire by lightning. The church burned to the ground.

The fourth building was dedicated July 29, 1877, on the same site, and it still stands. On June 28, 1909, the church celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. Membership at that time was one hundred twenty-five.

The one hundredth anniversary of the church was celebrated November 11, 1934. On October 25, 1959, the church celebrated its one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary. Membership at that time was two hundred sixty-four.

On April 25, 1961, the congregation purchased five acres of land at 928 North Main Street. On November 1, 1964, the first services were held in the new church building. On Sunday, November 8, 1964, dedication and the one hundred thirtieth anniversary celebration was held.

As the city of Washington, Illinois, celebrates their sesquicentennial, Washington Christian Church will be one hundred forty years old. Present membership is in excess of six hundred members. William Vandervoort is the minister, and Ron Criswell is the associate and youth minister of Washington Christian Church at the time of this writing.



## ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

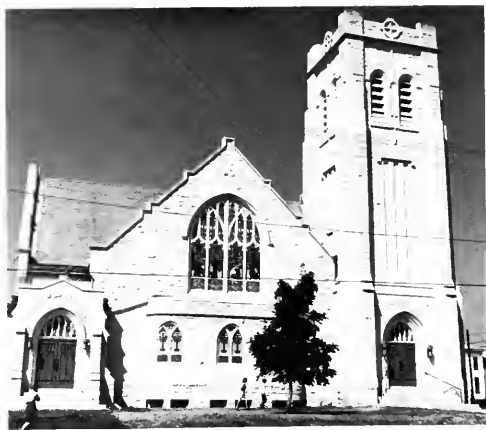
One hundred years ago, April 18, 1875, there was born into the family of Washington churches, a new congregation, with a small but devoted membership of sixteen souls. These five men and eleven women brought into existence this new organization and christened it "St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Washington, Illinois". The charter members were: Josiah Snyder, T. L. Benford, John Bradle, Mary Benford, Sarah C. Snyder, Lavinia Benford, Minnie Benford, Sophia Benford, Emma Jones, Mary Heiple, Clara Denhart, Martha Miles, Mary Bradle, and Mary M. Burton.

Six other denominations preceded it, some as much as forty years. Among them was St. John's Lutheran, organized in 1868. It laid the foundation upon which St. Mark's built. St. John's, therefore, is due the honor of being the first Lutheran church in Washington, Illinois.

In 1875 the Baptist Church was rented, and in this church the Reverend Simeon D. Harkey preached the introductory sermon and installed the church's first council and trustees.

On Aug. 26, 1877, the first church building was dedicated on the corner of what is now North Elm and Walnut Streets. The entire cost of the church building was \$6,000. The congregation worshipped there from 1877 until the new building was erected.

The new church was made possible by the magnanimous offer made by Henry Denhart and the cooperation



of the congregation and its council. The corner stone was laid June 4, 1911, and dedicated Sept. 15, 1912.

The work of the congregation continued to go forward under the leadership of the Reverend L. J. Powell and pioneers, such as the Snyders, Mahles, Denharts, Kingsburys, Andersons, Benfords, Bradles, Miles, Rickmans, Cranes, Stormers, Hules, Harms, Heiples, Strathmans, and many others.

On May 21, 1929, with the Service of Ordination being held in St. Mark's Church, the congregation had the joyous experience of seeing one of its sons, Raymond R. Pfeiffer, ordained to the gospel ministry.

Reverend Powell's glorious ministry of over twenty years came to a close on Aug. 29, 1940, when the Lord called him to his eternal reward. On December 16, 1940, the Reverend Carl D. Kammeyer and his family arrived.

The following years saw many improvements to the structure as well as the functioning body. On May 31, 1959, "Dedication Services" were held for the Parish Educational Building.

The first fifty years had seven pastors leading the church. They were: the Reverend Simeon Harkey, the Reverend J. M. Cromer, the Reverend G. W. Haldermen, the Reverend D. F. Smith, the Reverend D. F. Thomas, the Reverend Paul B. Holtgreve, and the Reverend L. J. Powell. Our last fifty years have been lead forward by three Pastors, Pastor Carl D. Kammeyer, Pastor Glenn G. Gilbert and Pastor Francis W. Johnson, and their assistants.



## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church of Washington was organized in November, 1965. It was started by the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod as a mission project. The first several years found the congregation holding worship services at the old Tazewell Theatre on the Washington Square.

In January, 1968 the congregation dedicated their present church building at 1209 Kingsbury Road. The first full time pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church was the Reverend Charles Weinrich, who served from 1967 to 1971. Prior to this time the late Reverend Fred Rottermund of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, East Peoria, served on a part-time basis.

The current pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church is the Reverend David Likeness, who was installed on April 16, 1972. Sunday School and Bible Classes are held at 9:30 A. M. and Divine Worship at 10:30 A. M. each Sunday. Present membership is 270 souls.



## CALVARY MENNONITE CHURCH

Calvary Mennonite had its beginning in May, 1866. The first meeting was in the Peter Strubhar home east of Washington, which is now the Ralph Vercler farm. Reverend Val Strubhar, son of Peter, was seven years old at the time. Val later served as minister from 1893 to 1941. The earliest song book used was the Ausbund.

The first church building was erected in 1869 and was called the East Washington Church. In 1895 there was an outgrowth which brought into being the South Washington Church. This group retained the German

language. In 1925 the present main building was erected in town. Several additions to the building have been constructed since that time. During the years most of the former German language group united with the town church.



Pastors involved included Peter Stuckey, Peter Guengerich, Jacob Unsicker, Michael Kinsinger, David Augsburg, Valentine Strubhar, Christian Imhoff, Ben Esch, John Kennel, Emil Sommer, Allen Miller, Harry Yoder, Heinz Janzen, Samuel Ummel, and Ward W. Shelly.

The Sunday School was organized in 1873, and the Women's Organization, originally called the Nahe Virein, was formed in 1906.



## REDEEMER MISSIONARY CHURCH

On November 30, 1964, twenty-two adults met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hesselein, 201 Willa Lane, Washington, for the purpose of organizing a new church congregation in the city.

At this planning meeting it was decided to call the Reverend Mr. Ralph E. Ogden to be the minister of the parish. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Traver of 505 Hillcrest Drive offered the use of their home for the Sunday and Wednesday services. Plans were also made to affiliate with the Missionary Church and to contact the Reverend Clayton D. Steiner, Central District Superintendent, to meet with the group to help formulate this new church body.

The first service of the congregation was held on Wednesday evening, December 2, for the purpose of prayer. Fifty people attended.

On Saturday, December 5, thirty-four adults met with the District Superintendent for the purpose of seeking information about establishing a Charter Membership and becoming a full member of the denomination.

The first Sunday services were held on December 6, 1964, with an attendance of 64 in Sunday School and 74 in the Worship Hour. At the close of the service, the congregation selected Redeemer Missionary Church as the name of their new church.

A committee of four men was appointed to investigate the possibility of purchasing the vacant Christian Church building at 105 North High Street. A purchase agreement was reached, and the congregation of Redeemer Missionary Church met for services in the church building on Sunday, January 3, 1965.

During the ten-year history of the church, a five-acre plot of land has been purchased at the corner of



Parkview and Kern Road for building a new church. A new parsonage has been erected on the five-acre location. The congregation gives partial support to the Reverend William Harrigan, missionary - translator in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Two young ladies, Miss Doris Wehnes and Mrs. Frances Dunham Rust, are now engaged in Christian service. Four young people are presently attending college at Fort Wayne Bible College, preparing for a Christian ministry.

The purpose of the church has been to maintain the historic Christian faith, to proclaim the Biblical message of salvation at home and overseas, and to encourage its sons and daughters to give their attention to the vocation of the Christian ministry.

## EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The early settlers who comprised the congregation came from the East, mainly from Ohio and Pennsylvania. During the year 1851-1852 the Reverend Jacob Schaefer, an early circuit rider, began to preach in Washington. The first meetings were held in the homes. For a while they were permitted to hold their services in the Presbyterian Church.

In 1853 the congregation was organized and became known as the Zion Evangelical Church. The growing membership purchased the present property from David Kern for \$80.00 and erected a log church, which was dedicated on Christmas Day, 1855.

During the pastorate of the Reverend William Schmus, the second church building was constructed at a cost of \$5,000.00. The large frame church was dedicated in October, 1882.

When the second structure would no longer answer the purpose of the congregation, the present building was constructed. The new edifice incorporated the old church

which had been moved to the north of the lot, all veneered with the vitrified brick of which the new structure was built. Dedication ceremonies took place on December 31, 1911, during the pastorate of the Reverend G. A. Manshardt.

The Farndale Church merged with the Washington congregation in 1921. This was followed in 1922 by a merger of the Holland's Grove congregation with the Washington church.

In 1946 a merger took place between The Evangelical and the United Brethren in Christ. At that time this congregation changed its name to Zion Evangelical United Brethren.

A major renovation was completed with reopening services on March 30, 1952. This improvement came during the pastorate of the Reverend H. O. Zimmerman.

On Palm Sunday, April 10, 1960, a very beautiful and inspirational chapel and three attractive classrooms



were dedicated. This was accomplished by remodeling a portion of the existing building.

In 1968 there was a merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. As a result of this merger, this congregation now goes by the official name of the Evangelical United Methodist Church.

From 1964 through 1969, the congregation accumulated seven pieces of property, including a new

parsonage, in anticipation of future expansion. On March 1, 1972, the congregation decided to enter a building program. The new Educational Building and Fellowship Hall was completed and consecrated April 28, 1974.

The present congregation consists of 375 active members with an average attendance of 242 at the worship service. In 1967 the present pastor, the Reverend Robert W. Hartman, was appointed to serve this congregation.



## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Methodism was first organized as a class meeting at Holland's Grove, now Washington, in 1828. James Walker, a Circuit Rider, began a regular preaching schedule at that time. In 1839 a church building was erected in Washington at the corner of North Main and Jefferson Streets. This building was a plain white, colonial type structure with a tower.

After the Civil War, 1866-67, a new building was erected on the present site at Walnut and Elm Street. This structure, magnificent for its day, cost \$10,500 and seated six hundred. It was exceeded by only two churches in Peoria in structure and size.

One writing reminds us that concerts, choral groups, socials, and drama, as well as revivals, gave zest to the church and community. This building was damaged by a tornado in the early twenties. For some time only the basement was used.

The bell, still calling to worship, cast by the Buckeye Foundry in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1848, was on an Illinois River steamboat until fire destroyed the craft. The bell was purchased for the second building and later re-set in the tower of our present brick structure.

In 1925, under the leadership of the Reverend Seldon L. Myers, the main part of the present church building was built. On April 11, 1954, under the leadership of the Reverend Clyde Friend, an addition, consisting of four class rooms, and an annex to the sanctuary were dedicated.



In 1962, under the leadership of the Reverend Richard L. Mader, the education building was completed. It consists of a first floor, adapted to class rooms and multi-purpose use, and offices.

A chapel and six class rooms are on the second level. This property was made debt-free in 1968. Different committees are now taking a serious look at the direction our church is taking as it looks ahead to meet the religious needs entrusted to it in this growing community.

Pastors who have served here are: Seldon L. Myers, C. E. Hawkins (Supply Pastor), George M. Hoyle, Bronson Smith, Thomas A. Stamp (Supply Pastor), C. E. Johnston, Clyde Friend, Robert Evans, Richard C. Mader, Harold W. Peterson, Lloyd W. Barnard, and Joseph A. White.

## THE WASHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On November 16, 1834, a few early families in the settlement, with the aid of the Sangamon Presbytery, organized The Washington Presbyterian Church. The first meeting was held in Charles Dorsey's store, which was a log cabin. It is said that on the shelves along with the scanty items of merchandise of a pioneer store was a stock of liquor. In order to lend a dignified background to the solemnity of the occasion, Mr. Dorsey obligingly covered the shelves with a bed sheet, hand woven, no doubt, and the meeting was called to order. Horace Blair, first stated clerk, concluded the minutes of that historic event with these words, "It was a solemn and interesting meeting."

The first church was erected at the present site, the corner of Walnut and Elm Streets, in 1837. This was followed by a second building in 1850. By 1871, the congregation required larger quarters. It was then that the present church of Gothic architecture was built, followed in 1887 by the addition of a room to the east side. In 1953 a full basement was placed under the building, giving much needed space for Church School as well as a dining room and kitchen.

In 1925 The Washington Presbyterian Church carried a membership of ninety-eight. Because the members of the older families gradually passed from the scene, the activities of the congregation slowly decreased. During the 1940's some of the services were attended by no more than seven or eight persons. Only by the dedicated tenacity of the remaining faithful members was the church able to survive. Early in the 1950's many new families of Presbyterian background began to make Washington their home, and the church enjoyed a surge of new life. The membership at present stands at two hundred thirty-five.

During the one hundred forty years of its existence, the church has had only seven installed ministers. The pulpit has often been filled by stated supply pastors. The Reverend Isaac A. Cornelison served the congregation



longer than any other minister, a total of forty-three years. The pastor at the present time is the Reverend Perry Tudor.

In 1967, because the congregation appreciated its simple beauty, its members voted for preserving and restoring the church, the oldest in the Presbytery. It stands as a symbol, bridging the pioneers days of the Past with the modern church of the Present and the onward thrust of the Future, all designating the continuity of the Church of which the Presbyterians are justly proud.

## ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

As early as 1857 there were Catholics in the Washington area. Some of these went to a church four miles west of Metamora. One Richard White used to go to church in Peoria on foot over a cowpath. Preparations were made in 1863 to build a chapel, and a grove on the north side of Jefferson Street was donated by A. H. Danforth and Company. The cornerstone was laid on Sunday, Sept. 13, 1863; the name of the chapel was St. Vincent de Paul.

No record has been found of what became of that chapel or cornerstone, but in 1876 on a lot donated by Walter T. Berket, the St. Patrick's Church on the south side of Jefferson Street was erected. Records show that the first baby baptized was Helen Quinn and the first

couple married were Antoinette Diener and Thomas Roche.

Later in 1896 the little church was remodeled and enlarged. It was then served by the Franciscan priests from Metamora. Later, St. Patrick's became a mission of East Peoria, and the Reverend Joseph Fennen served the church until 1941. The Reverend Henry Schubert was appointed as the first pastor. By 1951 there were 250 catholic families and about 150 children of grade school age. Construction of a school began in the spring.

In 1954 it was necessary to add another floor with four more rooms, and by the next year the church building was no longer able to accommodate the parishioners adequately. Arrangements were made for Mass to be





### WASHINGTON MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

The earliest existing records of the Washington Ministerial Association available to the writer at this time are the minutes of a meeting held on March 9, 1923. It is evident from them, however, that the organization had been in existence for at least one, and most probably several years prior to that date. The first order of business was the extending of appreciation "for the efficient service rendered as secretary and treasurer of this organization and for labor in the general uplifting of this community" to Reverend G. A. Manshardt, who was leaving to take up a call to Placentia, California. None of his records, unfortunately, have survived.

Other matters discussed at this time ranged from the scheduling of the final Lenten Union Service to approval of a mass meeting on April 23 at which Temperance leader, The Honorable Thomas Walker of the Anti-Saloon League, was to be speaker. Noon Passion Week meetings were held on the square under Association auspices at this time and that the possibility of providing accompanying luncheon service was under consideration. Steps were taken to arrange another first, the establishment of a Union Vacation Bible School.

The first recorded meeting had seven ministers attending. Perusal of subsequent records reveals that during these first years of its existence, the Association contained at least nine clergymen representing at least eight District congregations in an area extending from "Caterpillar Trail" to Secor along U. S. 24.

In 1923 the Association called the community's attention to the plight of central European children orphaned by World War I and raised over \$900.00 for that cause.

In subsequent years it has raised yearly \$460.00 for Near East Relief (1924-27), \$36.00 out of pocket for China Famine Relief (1929), 2,200 pounds of clothing and nearly \$40.00 remaining after payment of postage to Heart Lift for Korea (1951), and the 1954 UN Milk for Children Drive which led into annual participation in the Halloween UNICEF Drives, Church World Service, the John Milton Society for the Blind, and various others

said in the school basement, and the church was converted into a hall. In 1962 a whole new wing was added to the school, including a gym.

Finally, in August, 1966, work was started on our new St. Parick's church at 705 E. Jefferson Street. The first Mass was said there on Easter Sunday, April 14, 1968. The first two babies to be baptized were Matthew Lee Blain and Brent Matthew Cox. Ralph Braun and Sharon Steers were the first couple to be married.

The Reverend Henry Schubert retired in 1971. The current pastor is the Reverend Robert T. Hughes, and the Reverend Charles Mooney S. J. is our assistant.

that have been recipients of the Association's concern and resources through church and community.

At the very beginning of the Association's history the temperance movement had succeeded in getting "Prohibition" enacted. At a time when this law was openly flouted in major cities across the land, the Association went on record favoring the regulation of Pharmacy ownership to pharmacists only in hope of curtailing this common way station of the bootlegging trade (Ethyl alcohol was legal for medicinal purposes). Observing that enforcement was under county supervision, the members solicited and obtained the signatures of thirty-two pillars of the community who agreed to cooperate with the authorities in this matter.

Even after repeal concern for the willful abuse of alcohol led the Association to sponsor public meetings annually, to which speakers from W. C. T. U. and the Anti-Saloon League were invited. On one occasion, in the fall of 1945, the Association managed to obtain enough support to cause the county board to rescind an action liberalizing tavern hours.

A form of released-time religious education, the Community School of Religion, was begun on all grade levels of the public school system in the fall of 1923 and continued until 1952. During these years the Association arranged for the teachers, paid all costs and issued grades and reports for all participating students.

Through the Twenties and the first half of the Thirties when many of the congregations were too small to be able to develop and maintain programs independently, a joint Sunday School organization was maintained by the Association for their support. The Association supported a project for the development of new school buildings and programs.

Among the first concerns mentioned, in the fall of 1923, was the establishment of a church summer baseball league. By 1926 this activity had become so popular that a proposal was made that a corporation be formed to take over its management! In its formative stages this organization, first known as the "Inter-

Church Recreation Association" (although it would in time become the Washington Recreation Association of today), consisted of representative clergy and laity of the member congregations. The Association continued financial support of the program in amounts up to \$100.00 a year into the early Sixties. Spinoffs from this activity have, at various times, included golf, basketball, bowling and other off-season activities. The need to provide facilities for ball playing led to the development of a Park Board.

Edification through worship opportunities has been amply provided through a multitude of channels. The most enduring of these have been the Union Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, and Thanksgiving services which have continued into the present.

At the beginning of the recorded period, there were two other regularly scheduled activities. The first of these was a "Week of Prayer" emphasis, normally held through the first week in January, at which the members were teachers and worship leaders. This program continued with little variation until supplanted by a school of religion in 1970. The last of these programs was the "Estate Planning" series which the Association sponsored at the banks. The second regular activity was the series of Union Sunday Evening Services held through the summer. At first these were held in the open on the Square, but later these were held on the premises of the participating churches. These were discontinued in 1949

in favor of occasional special service, but gradually interest waned in the community and the practice has discontinued.

In 1951 arrangements were made and weekly devotional services begun in the community nursing facility. When the Washington Nursing Center opened in 1962, a similar commitment was reached and continues with the new facility.

Religious surveys of the Washington Community and environs have been proposed in the Association approximately every ten years. The latest religious census was conducted during 1973 Key 73 National Evangelism Emphasis.

The Association has underwritten the purchase of a substantial number of books and filmstrips for the Washington Library, sponsored occasional community and inter-community oratorios and song-fests, at various times provided teacher training laboratories, articles for the Reporter, and Dial-A-Devotion service. It also arranged for a bulk paper and printing supply purchase agreement which has benefited all the affiliated churches. It established and maintained relations with a Council of Churches under a modified form of the Peoria Council of Churches' Constitution from 1946 until its demise during the later fifties.

The present Washington Ministerial Association consists of fourteen ministers representing twelve churches in the Washington-Sunnyland area.



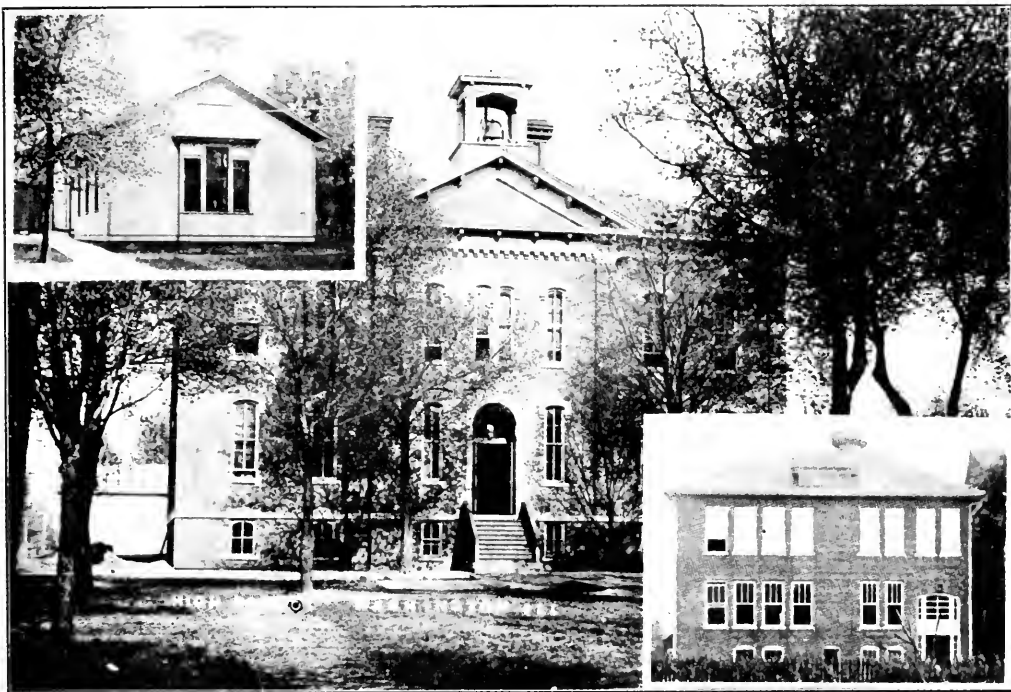
BAPTIST CHURCH



GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH



EVANGELICAL CHURCH AND PARSONAGE



## A HISTORY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOLS

A study of the early history of Washington, Illinois, reveals that education has always been an important part of the community. William Holland Sr., the first settler to build a house and improve a farm, was responsible for the first school in Washington in 1827. The school was taught by George H. Shaw, who was traveling through the country prospecting and stopped overnight at the Holland home. Mr. Holland soon discovered Shaw's fitness to teach, employed him for the winter school, and gave him as compensation his board, washing, and horse feed. A one room log building was erected that year on the site of what is now the Professional Building at 118 Peoria Street, this site later being donated by Holland for school use. Mr. Shaw was subsequently employed by Mr. Holland during the summer as a surveyor and laid out the original town.

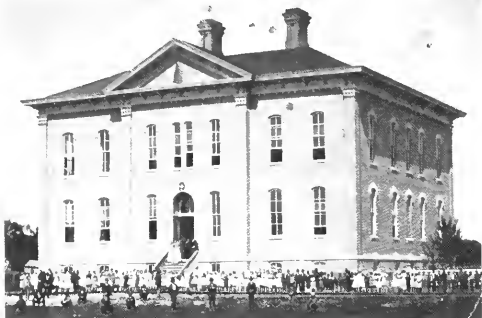
The early schools were known as subscription schools because each patron would subscribe a certain number of pupils and the teacher "boarded round" with each

patron. Early history mentions a school taught by Eli Redman in 1828-1829 in the Highland Park section of the town and another school taught by John Berry in the 1830's on a farm near the corner of what is now Wilmore and Dallas Roads. The subscription school started by Mr. Holland and Mr. Shaw continued in use until tax supported schools were formed.

There is a conflict as to the date that the first public schools were formed. One account credits 1837 or 1838 as the year a district school was formed on the site of the west schoolhouse started by Mr. Holland. Another account states that the first tax supported schools were known as the "East-side" and "West-side" schools. The West-side School was located on the Holland property at 118 Peoria Street. The East-side School was built on Church Street opposite the southwest corner of the present Washington Grade School playground.

Biographical and historical sketches compiled at the time of the Washington Centennial mention private schools that were held for those students desiring more advanced work. One of these private schools was later used by the district. A Mr. Kellogg, an Easterner with a vision, came to Washington with his family, several of whom were teachers. On the land at the corner of Catherine and South High, he erected the Seminary, a three story brick building. Courses at the high school

level were offered at the Seminary, which was designed also as a boarding school with the third floor being a dormitory. Mr. Kellogg's plan was not successful as he could not attract enough students. After the Kelloggs moved away, the brick building was used to house students from the West-side and East-side Schools for some fifteen years. Here in 1873 the first high school in Washington was organized.

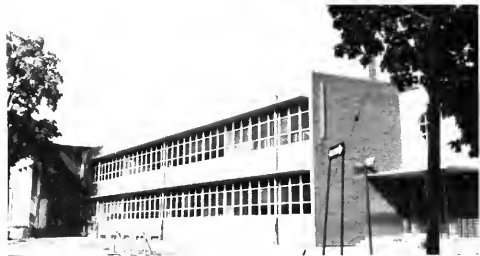


The need for a new school plant for District 52 was recognized by the middle of the 1870's, and a building was constructed at 105 S. Spruce Street to be used for grammar and high school students. The five acre site was donated by William Holland Sr. This two story building consisted of eight classrooms and had a full basement, which not only provided space for the heating plant but also served as living quarters for the custodian and his family. Written records show there were four high school graduates from the new school completed in 1876. One of these graduates was Mary Italin who is better known to many Washingtonians as Miss Mary. Upon graduation she was employed to teach the first primary, a position she held for sixty years. At the time of the Centennial celebration on August 11, 1925, Miss Mary's service was recognized by the community.

Fifteen years after the construction of the new building on Spruce Street, the first grade was moved to the west school at 118 Peoria Street and this school became known as the primary school. At the same time, the custodian and his family found other living quarters to make room for more classrooms at Washington School. However, this was only a temporary solution for more space.

By 1909 plans were made for an addition to the east of the 1876 building. This annex, completed in 1912, consisted of two large and two small classrooms upstairs, a study hall, office, and library on the main floor plus a larger heating plant in the basement. For thirty years the annex was used for high school classes and is still in use at Washington Grade School today.

About the time the 1912 annex was built, the idea of a community high school was gaining ground in the Middle West. Prior to this only a very few rural students



attended the city high school, where tuition was reportedly \$2.50 a month. The responsibility for the education of the children and youth of the rural areas of the township rested with each district, which had its own school of grades one through eight. Schools were governed by a school board consisting of three members from the district, and the schools were supervised by the county superintendent of schools in Tazewell County. Written records were not available to confirm the dates the rural districts were formed, but a record of the office of the County Superintendent of Schools dates back to 1864.

The majority of the rural schools were one-room schools, where one teacher taught all grades. Schools were open eight months of the year, but attendance was erratic. There were more pupils during the winter months than in the spring and fall when these pupils stayed home to help on the farm. Pupils were not classified so much by grade as by the reader, speller, or arithmetic book they were using when they were in attendance.

Washington Township had the following rural schools: Stormer School Dist. 20 on East Dutch Lane Road; Cottonwood Dist. 21 on East Cruger Road; Pleasant View Dist. 22 on Eureka Road; Green Ridge Dist. 23 on Irish Lane; Jefferson Dist. 42 at Cooper Station; Liberty Dist. 48 on Metamora Road; Columbia Dist. 49 on Spring Creek Road; Hopewell Dist. 50 on Highview Road; Central Dist. 51 on North Wilmor Road; Franklin Dist. 53 on Foster Road; Lafayette School Dist. 54 on Schuck Road; and Union School Dist. 55 on Farmdale Road.

In 1920 when Washington Community High School Dist. 308 was formed, pupils came from Washington School Dist. 52 and from the rural districts just mentioned. The new high school board rented the necessary classrooms at Washington School from Dist. 52, most of the classrooms being in the 1912 annex. At the time the community high school was formed, a practical business course and vocational courses were introduced along with the academic subjects. Sewing classes were held in rooms rented at a nearby home. The first building purchase of Dist. 308 was a portable schoolhouse better known as the "Ag Barn" which was placed to the south of the 1912 annex for use by agriculture students.

During the next twenty years, District 308 not only rented the facilities of District 52 but also shared a super-



intendent and some teachers with Dist. 52. In the 1930's state requirements for accredited schools were increased, and Washington faced the problem of a place for physical education. The old gym, built in 1906 on the lot back of the primary school, had been condemned by the State Fire Marshal in 1928. Washington schools rented space at the City Building for basketball practice and games, literary activities, and other school events until 1934, when District 52 built a new facility on the vacant lot north of the Washington Grade School building. The new building which faced Walnut Street provided additional classrooms and the much needed gym that also served as an auditorium.

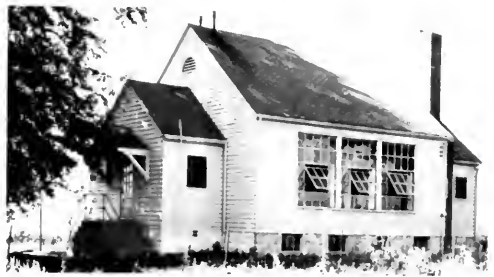
By 1940 Washington was faced with a population explosion. Both grade and high schools were crowded by increased enrollments. A decision was made to build a separate plant for the high school and the new building was constructed on Bondurant Street in 1942. A solution to problems at that time, the new high school was built to accommodate 400 students, the 1942 enrollment being 230.



The story of Washington area schools from about 1940 until the present time is one of a rapid increase in enrollment prompting numerous building programs.



District 52 found room to grow when a site was purchased at Lincoln and Jackson Streets for the new Lincoln Grade School, constructed in 1949, followed by additions in 1953, 1962, 1967, and 1971. Washington Grade School on Spruce St. erected a new building in 1953, part of it occupying the site of the original 1876 building. 1953 was also the year that the primary school at 118 Peoria Street was closed. District 52 now has an enrollment of 1077, 557 at Washington and 520 at Lincoln. The staff includes a Superintendent, two Building Principals, and 52 teachers, six of whom are half-time.



Central Grade School on Wilmor Road found the need for a new school building in 1941 when the old school was destroyed by a tornado. The new 1941 building had a basement which was later used as a classroom until the present Central Grade School building in Washington Estates was built in 1957. Additions were made in 1960, 1963, 1965, 1967, and 1969. Central presently has an enrollment of 592 with a staff of 25 teachers, a Principal and a Superintendent.



In 1911 Hopewell School Dist. 50 was proud of its new concrete block building, which featured two classrooms, a basement with a furnace, and a school bell. This building was large enough until 1939 when the Hopewell School District was affected by the development of the Sunnyland and Beverly Manor areas. From 1939-1950 Hopewell and Sundoer Schools were classified as Dist. 50. In 1951 the Hopewell agricultural area became Dist. 271, and the Sundoer and Beverly Manor Schools formed Dist. 50. Classes continued at the Hopewell School until the district was consolidated with Central Dist. 51 in 1963, increasing Central's enrollment by 39.



Columbia Dist. 49 grew in population with the development of Harvard Hills on Spring Creek Road. In 1961 a new building was constructed with an addition in 1965 on the site of the old building. Columbia, a four room school with 61 students, was annexed to Central Grade School Dist. 51 in 1974.

In the spring of 1951, Father Henry Schubert began construction on St. Patrick School for grades one through six serving 118 students. The school was staffed by three Sisters of Mary of the Presentation: Sister James Joseph, principal; Sister Mary Jane, and Sister Mary Benedict. The next year the enrollment was 174, and the seventh grade was added. In 1954 another of four rooms was added to the 1951 structure.



In 1962 a whole new wing was added to the school, which included a gym, a library, an office, restrooms, and six classrooms. The enrollment had grown to 477 and the staff to seven Sisters and five lay people, all Washingtonians: Mrs. Robert Howell, Mrs. Louis Volk, Mrs. George Goebel, Mrs. Florence Carlon, and Mrs. Ben DuBois. In 1968 the school became an ungraded school system.

Now in 1974 the enrollment is 333 with a staff of eight Sisters and nine lay people. Six of these are Washingtonians: Mrs. Shirley Meagher, Mrs. Louis Volk, Mrs. William Winslow, Mrs. John McMullan, Mr. Greg Martin, and Mrs. I. H. Sparling. The school is committed to the continuous progress of each child with an emphasis on individualized instruction. The Sisters on staff are: Sister Mary Ann, Principal; Sister Eloise Marie, Sister Irene Marie, Sister Rose Therese, Sister Helen, Sister Augusta, Sister Leona, and Sister Loretta.

While many of the schools in the Washington area were facing increased enrollments, schools in the rural area were experiencing school district reorganization. In 1948 Pleasant View Dist. 622 was formed by the consolidation of Stormer Dist. 20, Cottonwood Dist. 21, Pleasant View Dist. 22, Green Ridge Dist. 23, Franklin Dist. 53, and the northern half of Jefferson School Dist. 42. The new building for Dist. 622 was constructed in 1949 on the four-acre site at the corner of Pleasant View and Guth Roads with a necessary addition completed in 1962. Liberty School Dist. 48, the last one room school in Tazewell County to close, was annexed to Dist. 622 in 1961, increasing the enrollment by 21 pupils. Pleasant

View Dist. 622 which is nearly all agricultural land, presently has an enrollment of 111 with a staff consisting of a Superintendent, five teachers, and a half day kindergarten teacher.

Lafayette Dist. 53 and Union Dist. 54, located in the southwest part of Washington Township, contained farm land in both Washington and Morton townships. With reorganization, the farm area in Washington Township belonging to both districts was assigned to District 50. Union School was closed in 1953 and Lafayette School in 1960.

Growth of Washington Community High School has been parallel to the growth of its feeder districts. Additions to the high school structure on Bondurant St. were made in 1956, 1962, and 1963. These additions more than tripled the space of the original building. At the same time, the physical education and extra-curricular programs called for the construction of Babcock Field and Washington Gymnasium. Babcock Field, located on Jefferson Street and Wilmor Road, was dedicated in 1962 in honor of Golden Babcock;



coach, teacher, and administrator. Washington Gymnasium, known as the boys' gym, faces Jefferson Street and was completed in 1963. The 1974 building program has been planned to accommodate 2000 plus students and includes a Vocational/Technical Building located south of Washington Gymnasium and an addition to the front of the 1942 building on Bondurant Street. The new addition will provide more classrooms, a library/learning resource center, and a cafeteria/multi-use area. The high school's present enrollment is 1557 and its staff consists of four administrators and 79 teachers. Feeder districts to Washington Community High School are Districts 50, 51, 52, 622, and St. Patrick's of Washington.

This history of schools in the Washington area discloses the organization and reorganization of the educational system in 150 years and the necessary building changes that have accompanied the growth of Washington. No attempt has been made to trace curriculum changes or to give individual credit to the personnel — administrators, teachers, school board members, parents, interested citizens — who have helped enhance the learning experience of so many students. Through the years the educational goal has been the same: to provide the student with a solid foundation for living effectively in his world and helping to perpetuate the American way of life.

# SPORTS

## WASHINGTON GRADE SCHOOL

**KEY:** Heavyweight (Hw.); Lightweight (Lw.); Yard (Yd.)

Washington Grade School athletics have been somewhat sporadic depending upon the physical facilities available. Track probably had the longest tenure, as the track was located around the playground. Basketball was limited from 1934 to 1943 as the High School had first priority on the gymnasium.

The following teams have won at the State Tournaments: second in 1955, Hw. basketball; third in 1970, Hw. track; fourth in 1971, baseball; and first in 1973, baseball.

The present records at the Washington Grade School in track are as follows: **Lightweights:** 120 yd. Hurdles, J. Lester, 16.5, 1967; 50 yd., G. Day, 6.0, 1964; 100 yd., K. Day, 12.3, 1973; 220 yd., T. Koehl, 27.8, 1974; 440 yd., D. Ferree, 65.3, 1971; 880 yd., M. Clary, 2.39, 1974; High-Jump, Bob Shullow, 1963, and M. Lee, 1972, 5' 0"; Long-Jump, J. Martin, 16' 10", 1965; Pole-Vault, D. Cook, 1968, and Dave King, 1970, 8' 8"; Shot-Put, R. Hickman, 31' 8", 1967; Discus, R. Gaumer, 93' 10", 1965; 400 yd. Shuttle-Relay, 52.4, 1973, M. Lee, S. Gundy, R. Blum, and M. Wilson; 400 yd. Relay, 55.7, 1964, Gregory, J. Martin, M. Wittekiend, and G. Day; and 880 yd. Medley Relay, 2:12, 1973, W. Kanaga, B. Brubaker, M. Hennig, and K. Day.

**Heavyweights:** 120 yd. Hurdles, Bob Kimpling, 15.0, 1945; 50 yd., M. Oberlander, 5.9, 1970; 100 yd., Steve Rediger, 10.8, 1965; 220 yd., Steve Rediger, 23.8, 1965; 440 yd., M. Neill, 55.1, 1969; 880 yd., J. Ogbarn, 2:13, 1973; Mile run, K. Grubb, 5:30, 1974; High-Jump, K. Kirkpatrick, 1970, and J. Lester, 5' 4", 1972; Long-Jump, K. Kirkpatrick, 19' 3½", 1970; Pole-Vault, K. Gall, 1970 and B. Britnell, 1974, 10' 0"; Shot-Put, C. Meurn, 47' 4", 1960; Discus, J. Andrews, 144' 2", 1964; 400 yd. Shuttle-Relay, 48.4, 1963, F. Haag, E. Martin, J. Gaddard and D. Shotwell; 440 yd. Relay, 49.5, 1964, E. Martin, J. Andrews, D. Dingleline, and S. Beemer; 880 yd. Medley Relay, 1:58.8, 1973, M. Ernst, R. Blum, R. Millard, and E. Bernsan.

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Basketball

Basketball had its beginning in Washington when Lee I. Knight was hired as science teacher and coach in 1903.



They would practice on the playgrounds in the fall and occasionally played games in Highland Park. When the weather got cold, they played in the back room of the present building located on the south side of the Square, 106-110 Washington Square. There was room for two rows of chairs placed behind chicken wire for protection of the spectators.

Mr. Knight inspired the community to build a gymnasium in 1906. This was done at the cost of \$1100.00 and a lot of volunteer labor. The building was located at 118 Peoria Street and seated about 300 people. There were two large pot-bellied stoves, which would singe if you got too close. The water faucet in the corner often led to a puddle, which was an area to watch closely.

In the years of 1905 and '06, they won 30 straight games on the home floor, beating Bradley College 26-24. While playing at Normal, our scorekeeper had us winning while their scorekeeper had us losing. During this period of time, there were many fouls, and only one man on each team was designated to shoot the freethrows.

In 1907 Washington was declared State Champions for about two months. They beat Peoria Central 51-14 to be declared area champion. As Wheaton was the Chicago area champs, we beat them here 30-25. Washington then had to go to Wheaton, and beat them 29-27. Washington thus declared themselves State Champions. Two months later Rockford challenged Washington, and beat them, thus our claim to glory was short.

The team of 1908, no doubt, holds the record for the first team to score over 100 points and surely is the only team to beat their opponent by 100 points: Washington, 102 and Brimfield, 2.

In 1909 the Illinois High School Athletic Association set up definite tournament sites. Washington beat Decatur on their home court 41-20 and were declared Central Illinois champs. They got second in the State Championship played in Bloomington. It was a contro-



versal game as they lost to Hinsdale by 5 points. There were 31 fouls called against Washington and only 14 against Hinsdale. This team consisted of R. Risser, S. Zinser, F. Meyer, M. Ryf, and C. Long. The game was phoned back to the Washington telephone office. At a cost of 25¢ you could hear the first-hand results within the office as the game was being played.

The 1911 team won the Central Illinois Championship by beating Streator 41-29. This was supposed to be Washington's best team, but they were defeated by Paris as our boys had been weakened by contacting the mumps.

Mr. Feik coached the 1912-13 teams.

Virgil Catlin coached from 1914-1918. Washington had another good team in 1916. They had a 20-1 record, losing to Canton by one point. This team consisted of J. Norris, W. Bennett, E. Pfeiffer, S. Crocker, L. Risser, and H. Ebert. John Norris scored 46 points against Metamora, December 1916, which still stands as a school record.

Si Crocker '18 and Bob Ryf '18 played at Eureka College, where they assisted in winning the Little 19 championship.

Harry Wood served as coach in the years of 1919-1920.

Merle Spicer, a math teacher, was coach in 1921.

Ed. Harris coached in the years of 1922 and '23.

Walt S. Shafer coached in 1924 and '25. He had a good ball club in 1925. Frank Belsley '25 went on to play at Knox College.

In the year 1929, the gym was condemned, and the team had no home court. The team practiced some in Metamora and Deer Creek but played all their games out of town.

In 1931 the City Building, formerly located at 141 Washington Square, was converted into a gym. There were two rows of seats on each side, and the stage added some seating. One had to be careful of the radiator at one end of the court and the stage on the other.

Olie H. Carmen coached from 1926 to 1937. During the latter part of this era, one might consider taking a shot with one hand. Charles "Chick" Roehm '30 played at Eureka College.

In 1934 a new gym was built with W.P.A. funds. This is presently the Grade School Gymnasium. They even had shower facilities.

Golden Babcock coached basketball from 1938 to 1940.

In 1941 a second coach was added to the faculty to coach basketball, and he was Frank Lorton.

Fred Eihausen coached for 2 years in 1942 and '43.

A new high school was built in 1943 at 115 Bondurant Street. This is the present girl's gym, which had a seating capacity of about 800.

Roy Romani coached from 1944 to '50. He had a very good team in 1945. This team consisted of E. Kilby, who went to Univ. of Wisconsin, V. Strubhar, Jr., R. Harvey, D. Oppen, A. Montgomery, E. Hagen, and D. Blair. The Roy Romani Memorial Trophy is presented each year to the athlete who also excels in mathematics.

Bob Summer '50 and Leroy Smith '50 played at Eureka College.

Frank Beckman coached for one year in 1951.

Dick VanScyoc coached from 1952 to '66. Washington placed 2nd in the Pontiac Tournament in 1954 and 1st in 1955 by defeating Alton. These teams consisted of: Jerry Graff '55, to Drake; Tom Adams '56, to Univ. of Ill.; Gordon Faubel '56, to Knox; Marcus Johnson '56; Gene Thraikill '56; C. Bodmer '57; J. Corpe '57; B. Dvorsak '57; K. Hurst '56; S. Sauer; M. Romani '59; and B. Dixon '57. Jerry Graff had the scoring record of 42 points at the Pontiac Tournament for a long time.



Joe Broz '57 went to Purdue and the U.S. Naval Academy.



In 1962 Washington went to the State Tournament and was defeated by Quincy, 45-37. This team consisted of J. Gresham '62, to Ill. Wesleyan; Clark Pool '63, to Wake Forest; Virgil McElfresh '62, to Austin Peay; Dave Dearth '62, to Western; T. Kelly '62; J. Gordon '62; C. Meurn '64; S. Bachman '63; R. Boekler '63, and L. Summer '63.

The present gym was finished in 1963. This has a seating capacity of 3000 and gives the school a most functional athletic program.

Bob Alexander '65 went to MacMurray and Ron Romani '65 played at Murray State.



Jack Reeder coached in 1967. Dave Reeves '66 went to Ill. Wesleyan; Ken Meischner '66 to Bradley, and Ron Hathcock '67 went to N. W. Oklahoma State.

Mel Roustio was coach from 1968 to 1970. Lon Bradle '69 went to Sheridan, Wyoming, and Northern Arizona University. Rick Gaumer '70 played at Lakeland.

Chuck Buescher, the present assistant at Bradley, coached in 1971. John Day '72 went to Eastern, and Dave Dingleline '72 to Ill. Wesleyan.

Chuck Westendorf, our present coach, started in 1972. Washington got 2nd in 1972 in the Pekin Tournament Championship flight, and 1st in the Consolation bracket in 1973. Charlie Thomas '73 went to Eastern, and Loren Nofsinger '73 to Goshen College. Gary Church '74 is going to Bradley University.

Ed Usnik, although not a graduate of Washington, served as official scorekeeper from 1953 through 1973.

The following players have been elected for All-State honors in recent years:

Tom Adams — 1955 and '56 — Also played in the North-South game at Murray, Kentucky.

Mel Romani in 1959 received football honors, and also honorable mention in basketball.

Virgil McElfresh '62 in basketball.

Clark Pool '63 in basketball.

Wm. Hoagland '68 in football.

Charlie Thomas '73 in basketball.

## Football

In 1902 the school bought football equipment and started practicing on the playground. Bob Heiple broke his leg in practice and the football program terminated.

In the fall of 1923 football was started again with Walt S. Shafer as coach. Their field was Minch's pasture, which was east of 700 South High Street to 700 South Elm Street. There were a few dips, which helped if you were going in the right direction. Occasionally, the field has to be cleared of cattle or hogs. In the years of '25 to '28, football was played at Sullivan Field. The team moved again to Minch's pasture in '29-'30 and moved permanently to Sullivan's field, 802 Walnut Street, in 1931. Outstanding players at this time were Harper Roehm '24, to Knox College and Glen "Sam" Wagner '25, to the University of Illinois.



Olie H. Carmen coached from 1926 to 1937. "Olie" can surely be remembered for his discipline, wearing the

sidelines down, and eating grass. His nickname of "Sickle Foot", which was surely not used in his presence, described his pacing on the sidelines.

Golden Babcock coached football from 1938 to 1953. Lights were installed on the field in 1938 with volunteer labor. Eugene "Fat" Ellis '40 went to the Univ. of Ill. and then to Purdue in the V-12 program. Dolph Rosenberg '40 played at the Univ. of Pittsburg. It was in 1942 that Bob Neuman drowned in Lake Eureka. He was a most promising athlete and the Sportsmanship Award is given yearly in his honor.

In the year of 1943, a new football field was developed at 115 Bondurant Street. This was quite an improvement, and many more lights were installed to give better playing conditions.

Leonard "Red" Ellis '44 played at Bradley. Vern Strubhar, Jr. '45 went to Eureka and Ill. Wesleyan. Allen Andrews '46 served as manager at the Univ. of Ill. and presently is Chief of Police in Peoria. Bob Summer '47 played at Eureka College and Joe Bratcher '50 at Western Illinois.

Noah Hickman coached from 1956 to '61. John Foster '57 played at Eureka College; Jerry Essington '58, Ill. State; Dan McMillan '59, Eureka College; Bill Roper '59, Western Ill.; Bob Blumenshine '61, Dartmouth; and Orville McElfresh '61, Wartburg. Mel Romani '59 was selected on the All-State team and played for the Univ. of Ill.

Babcock Field was developed in 1962 and presently has a seating capacity of 2000. Jack Stromberger served as coach from 1962 to 1966. John Stone '65 played at Ill. State; Steve Queen '65 at Murray State; and Ben Esch at MacMurray.

Don Clayberg coached from 1967 through 1969. Steve Beemer '68 and Ernie Pierantoni '67 both played at Bradley.

Bill Farrell, presently the coach, came to Washington in 1971. The program has been built up to the point where close to 100 boys participate each year, and Bill has six assistant coaches.

Bill Hoagland '69 was selected for All-State recognition and played at Lakeland College.

The following play college football at the present time: Kurt Koenig '70, Illinois College; Mark Koenig '71; New Mexico State; Stu Levenick '71, Univ. of Ill.; Roger Hickman '72 and Joe Chasco '73 at Ill. Wesleyan.

## Track

Lee I. Knight started the Track program upon his arrival in 1903. The usual procedure in those early days was to have an inter-class meet to determine somewhat the abilities of each boy. The Tazewell County High School Association was formed in 1906. This was the beginning of the County Meet.

In the year of 1912, the County Meet was held in Washington on a field prepared in Sullivan's pasture.

About 2000 people attended this event with one-half of the crowd coming on a special train. The Literary contest was held in the morning and the Track Meet in the afternoon. Washington participated in this until it reached a student enrollment of 500 in 1956.

The track at the Grade School playground was developed in the late teens. This was about a one-sixth mile cinder track, with the field events in the center between the trees. There was barely enough room for the 100-yard dash, the 220 had two curves, and sometimes the discus and javelin would hit the trees.

Since early records and meet data is rather difficult to accumulate, many individuals and teams will, no doubt, be missed in this summary. Only those who have possibly held a local record, participated in track while in college, or advanced to the State Meet are included in this article.

Wayne Bennett '16 participated in the pole vault at the Univ. of Ill. Ed Schabinger '22 took part in track at the Univ. of Chicago. Washington had a good track team in 1925. Gib Kyes, 115 So. Cedar Street, ran the 50, 100, and 220 in times of 5.3, 10.4, and 22.1.

During the years of 1930-31, Washington had another very good team. Under O. H. Carmen they participated in the Sreator, Gridley, and Lostant relays giving a good account of themselves. Bob Hornbeck '31, won the 50, 100, and 220 two years in a row at the County Meet. Members of this team were R. Burkey, R. Chaffer, R. Dingleline, G. Gross, W. Hughes, R. Hornbeck, D. Imhoff, M. Kamp, G. Rosenberg, H. Shaeffer, and J. Strubhar.

Tommy Marshall '40 participated in the dashes while at Bradley. Dick Alexander '44 held the C. C. I. and Ill. Wesleyan records in the one and two mile.

In the year of 1956, Noah Hickman was assigned to coach track exclusively. Good records have been kept from this date. Those going to the State Meet in 1957 were: G. Faubel '57, high jump; J. Schlosser '57, 220; and the 440 relay. J. Ernst '57, W. Clausen '58, J. Schlosser '57 and W. Dixon '57.

Babcock Field was developed in 1962. This offered a 1/4 mile cinder track and 220 without a curve. Jack Stromberger coached through the years of 1962 through 1967. Jerry Essington served as coach in 1968-'69. Bob Shullaw '68 holds the 440 Intermediate hurdle record at Knox. John Armstrong '69 participated in the cross country and mile run while at Bradley.

Wm. Farrell is presently the track coach and has served in this capacity since 1970. The development of the Babcock Field facilities and the fact that there are two track coaches in the school have created much more interest, and many boys are participating in the sport.

Following are the present school records: 100 yd., A. Steck '74, 10.1; 220 yd., J. Schlosser '57, 22.3; 440 yd., K. Koenig '70, 50.5; 880 yd., J. Armstrong '69, 2:01.7; 1 mile, D. Kelley '63, 4:35.1; 120 high hurdles, B. Shullaw '68, 15.4; 330 low hurdles, B. Zeone '74,

41.8; High jump, B. Shullaw '68, 6' 3"; Broad jump, C. Moore '71, 22' 2 1/2"; Pole Vault, M. Heinold '73, 13' 3/4"; Shot Put, M. Murdoch '68, 52' 8 1/4"; Discus, M. Koenig '71, 158' 9"; Sprint Medley, Steck-Killough-Hobbs-Heller '74, 1:38.7; 440 yd. relay, Fugitt-Hobbs-Kirkpatrick-Steck '74, 44.9; 880 yd. relay, Schlosser-Ernst-Clauser-Dixon '57, 1:33.4; Mile relay, Heller-Wilson-Zeone-McFolling '74, 3:29.5; 2 mile, D. Krueger '74, 9:57.2; Triple jump, K. Kirkpatrick '74, 42' 6 3/4".

## Baseball

Frank Lorton came to Washington in 1941, and this was the beginning of baseball. Sullivan Field was used as the home diamond. Fred Eihausen coached in 1942 and 1943. Aaron Martin '42 played at Purdue and served as captain three years. Roy Romani coached from 1944 to 1950. Olin Martin '45 also played at Purdue and had four years of professional ball in Class A leagues. Frank Beckman coached in 1951.

Dick VanScyoc was baseball coach from 1952 to 1965. The baseball diamond was developed in 1962 at Babcock Field.

They won the regional championship in 1953. Bill Dixon '57 played college ball at Bradley and some pro ball in the Giant organization. Gary Bruington coached from 1966 to 1970. They won the regional in 1967. E. Pierantoni '68 and Gary Bowe '69 played at Bradley.

Brian Wisher started in 1971 and presently is serving as baseball coach. He has one assistant. Mark Hodges '73 is at MacMurray.

## Wrestling

Wrestling was started at Washington High in 1962 with Noah Hickman serving as coach. Don Clayberg coached from 1963 to 1969, and Ken Frus from 1970 to the present time.

Wrestlers of particular note have been Brad Ward '66, Gary Meyers '68, Dave Stormer '68, and Ken Woodward '73.

The wrestling program today consists of three squads: Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshman. About 70 boys take part in these programs.

## Golf

Roy Romani started the golf program at the Eureka Golf Course in 1962. In 1966 the program was suspended due to lack of school funds. Jack Stromberger was appointed coach in 1968 and presently serves in that capacity.

The Stan Smith Award was created in 1968. Stan was on the first golf team and was killed in the Vietnam War.

The 1972 team went to the State Meet. Members of this team were: R. Fuller, M. Nelson, J. Day, J. Maddock and J. Thiene. E. Habecker, Jr. '71 played at Loyola of Chicago, and J. Maddock '72 is at Western Illinois.

## Conference Affiliations

In the very early days of basketball, the games were played against teams usually situated along the railroad lines. As automobiles came into use in the teens, this allowed for greater diversity of traveling to games. Up to the year of 1945, there was no conference affiliation.

During the years of 1945 to 1955, Washington was associated with the Illio Conference. This Conference consisted of Chillicothe, Eureka, Farmington, Metamora, Morton, and Tremont.

As Washington High became larger, the smaller schools objected to their domination, and at the same time the school desired stronger competition. The Corn Belt Conference was formed, and Washington was a part of it from 1957 to 1972. The teams were: Central Catholic, Clinton, Pontiac, University-High, and with Normal Community and St. Teresa for a period of time.

The Heart of Illinois Conference was formed in 1972. There are two divisions: The East consists of Central Catholic, Clinton, Olympia, Pontiac, and U-High. The West consists of Canton, Metamora, Morton, IVC (Chillicothe), and Washington. This has allowed for stronger programming of games, particularly in football.

## INDEPENDENT TEAMS

### Baseball

The first organized baseball in Washington was The Clippers. They played in the Highland Park Field. The main battery was Roy Miller, pitcher, and Clayton Miller, presently of 203 Lincoln St. This was an independent team which played all comers. The story goes that in 1907 or '08 there was to be a big game with El Paso. Washington hired a good pitcher out of Roanoke. There was a lot of betting, and supposedly the pitcher threw the game and Washington lost. Due to the consequences that developed, baseball was not supported after that incident.

After World War II the Bulldog Insurance Co. of Washington, through the guidance of Theodore Roehm, formed the "Bulldog" baseball team. During the years of 1920 to 1927, they were considered one of the strongest teams in Central Illinois. They played at Sullivan Field, which would be about 802 to 812 Walnut Street. Crowds were so large that often a canvas was placed around the field. They played all the independent teams nearby, the Colored All-Stars, and a few times the traveling House of



David teams. The team was made up of Guy Bozarth, John Ficht, Bill Engel, Frank Nutty, Milton Rich, Bill Snyder, Roy Blumenshine, Bill Ellwanger, Fred Gueick, (pitcher), Vern Strubhar, Lester Blumenshine and Jack Carius, with Moss Hughes as manager. Jesse Meyers, Percy Lyons, and Clarence "Furt" Blumenshine joined the team in the last years. Don Strubhar was bat-boy. Van Sellar Mosley was the concessionaire, and surely all people of this era remember his chatter. Frank Bozarth and Lou Rider often served as umpires, and Dudley Brown as policeman. As the Bulldog Insurance Company subdued to the times, so did the baseball team.

During the years of 1930 to 1947, the Washington Merchants' baseball team was formed. They, likewise, played at Sullivan Field. This team had many good years, and there were other years they had their problems. They represented Washington well in the Independent League of surrounding towns.

The American Legion has sponsored a Legion team for the most part during the past 25 years. In 1940 the Washington team won the down state championship but lost to the Chicago team two games to one in the finals. Aaron Martin, Olin Martin, Glenn Aberle, and Bob Newman played on this team.

In the years 1929, 30, and 31, a Softball League was formed which played under lights every night but Sunday. Most every boy from 15 to 35 played in this eight-team league. There were two games per night, and this league dissolved because of the cost of running the lights and tight money for sponsorship. Uncle Billy's Sorghum team were the champions each year. Ray Gardiner managed a girls' team which did very well and played throughout the state. John Norris was president and E. E. Habecker served as treasurer of these leagues.

Independent basketball teams were very popular from 1918 through the 20's.



## Tennis

The first tennis in Washington was on a court built in the center of the Washington Grade School playground in about 1922. This was a clay court maintained for the most part with volunteer labor. Most of the time it was necessary to drag, water, roll, and line the court before playing. Then of course, the big kids would push you off. This court had its good and lean years until about 1946.

A private grass court at the L. J. Danforth house, 804 South Main St., was used by many friends and neighbors. This court usually needed mowing before it was ready to play, and did you ever push a mower without a backroller?

Tennis players of note in Washington have been: Charles "Chick" Roehm, M.D., '30, Eureka College; Robert Esch, '31, Bluffton College; Wayne J. Kinsinger, D.D.S., '34, Ill. Wesleyan University; and Rear Admiral Arthur Esch, '35, U.S. Naval Academy.

Attorney Kenneth Black has, by far, been the most outstanding player in Washington. He was on the Bradley College team serving as captain in 1934. They won the Little 19 double championship in '33 and '34, the Greater Peoria Singles Championship ten times between 1933 and 1950; an the Doubles Championship fourteen times within this same period of time. Kenny played and won many other tournaments in the area which are too numerous to mention.

## Bowling

The first bowling lanes were built in 1938 by Henry and Willis Hett at about 122 North Main St. There were six lanes which were managed by Bob Noll, Fred Corder, Roy Bradle, and Curley Noll. The Uptown Bowl was filled with leagues five nights per week.

The East Side Lanes was opened in 1940 by Homer Waughop at 904 Walnut St. The four lanes were closed in 1945. In 1957 Tom Brown re-opened the four lanes, and this was expanded to eight lanes in 1959 when Jerry Erickson joined as a co-partner.

Plaza Lanes was built in 1962 with Tom Brown and Jerry Erickson as co-owners. There were sixteen lanes. Walt Kuykendall purchased Tom Brown's interest in 1964. The alleys were increased to twenty in 1973. The 21st Annual Mixed Couples' Tournament was completed in 1974 with over 800 couples competing.

The Washington people who have bowled 300 games are Clarence "Cuz" Bradle, 1941, East Side Lanes; and Al Brigg, 1962, at Plaza Lanes.

## Dartball

In 1952 the Washington Church Dartball League was formed, playing their games in the City Building. The first year there were six teams, and Donald V. Smith was president of the organization. The league reached its peak in 1958-59 when there were ten teams playing. The league was dissolved in 1965, as interest waned.



St. Patricks dominated the league, winning the championship eight times. R. Bauer of the E.U.B. church had the highest average of 718 in 1965-66 season. Gene Copp was batting leader seven years in succession.

In area competition an All-Star team won the tournament once, and St. Patricks won the Tournament of Champions twice.

At the present time, the Sunnyland Christian and Evangelical United Methodist teams play in the Peoria Protestant League, while St. Patricks plays in the Peoria Catholic Dartball League.

## Golf

The first golf course in our area was Kaufman Park, which was started in 1922 by a group of Eureka businessmen. This is located west of Eureka along Walnut Creek on land left in trust to the organization by the Kaufman family. It is a nine-hole course with hills, trees and creek to challenge the golfer.

As Washington golfers played the course and took part in the organization, it was renamed the Eureka-Washington Golf Course. The Kaufman family later, by trust deed, made possible a permanent recreation site, and at this time the course was named Kaufman Park.



Al and Abe Espinosa, well known pro's in the U.S., played the course often in the 1920's. Abe Espinosa was a brother-in-law of Elsie Pfeiffer.

At present there are the Ladies, Teachers, and Caterpillar Leagues at the course. The monthly stags, Golf Classic, and the long-standing Graham's Handicap Tournament are popular today.

Hillcrest Golf Center, 1829 Washington Road, was constructed in 1958 by Harvey Slagell, LeRoy Slagell, and Roland Brubacker. This consists of a driving range, miniature, and 18-hole course. Ben Brubacker replaced the Slagells and later took over complete operation upon Roland Brubaker's retirement. The course plays at par 59.

The following leagues are active at the present time: Church League, Night-time Ladies League, Ladies 9-hole League, Ladies 18-hole League, Caterpillar Leagues, and Junior League. The Junior program in con-



nection with the Washington Recreation Association was started in 1957. This program covers instruction for boys and girls between the ages 8 and 18. To date there have been 294 holes-in-one at the Hillcrest course.

Pine Lakes Country Club, located between Washington and Morton, was built in 1963 by Dayton Alt. This course was originally a public fee course but later changed into a private club. The facilities include an 18-hole course with clubhouse and dining room available. They sponsor Ladies Leagues; Ladies, Mens, and the "Snow Bird Classic" tournaments. At the present time Executive Centers of America are owners of the course.

Highview Hills Country Club, 2215 Highview Road, East Peoria, was built by Warren Keil on the Keil homestead in 1973. This course is 18 holes, constructed with Purwic System Greens, with a clubhouse and dining room open to the public.



## OUR PROFESSIONAL CITIZENS

### PHYSICIANS

The first physician in Washington was Dr. R. F. Goodwin, coming from Vermont in 1832. Dr. C. F. Wood, coming also from Vermont, joined Dr. Goodwin in 1835 in what proved to be a very successful partnership. They originated the Goodwin and Wood's land development.

DR. C. F. WOOD (1800-1871) studied in Vermont until he was 18, then moved to Tazewell County and became a student with Dr. Dundee, a pioneer physician.

DR. R. W. BURTON (d. 1859) came from Kentucky and settled here in 1838. He not only practiced medicine but started the first regular drug store.

DR. E. F. WOOD (1829-1894), the son of Dr. C. F. Wood, started practicing with his father in 1847. He studied at the State University in St. Louis for three years and returned here in 1849 to practice.

DR. R. B. M. WILSON (1827-1879) took his medical training in Ireland and at the age of twenty had his degree in medicine. He emigrated to the United States and started practicing with Dr. C. F. Wood. In 1858 he was elected to the State House of Representatives. In 1862 he was elected to help form a new state constitution. In 1877 he returned to Washington and formed partnership with Dr. E. F. Wood. His professional reputation extended throughout the entire area, and most every train brought patients from a distance.

DR. WM. T. GRIFFITH (1833-1910?) came to Washington in 1865 and practiced on Walnut Street. Born in Indiana, he studied in Cincinnati and practiced successfully in Washington.

DR. ALFRED ALPHONSO (1835-1901) came to Washington in 1875. He was born in Berlin, Germany, studied medicine in Berlin, and emigrated to the United States in 1861. He practiced in Chicago for two years and served as acting surgeon during the Civil War with Co. C., 17th Cavalry. He started the Alphonso Drug Company, which was carried on by his daughter. In 1877 he erected the Washington Academy of Music and became extensively engaged in this business.

DR. HENRY GULICK (1839-?) came to Washington in 1876 and practiced on the east side of the Square. He received his education at Jefferson College in Pennsylvania. Dr. Gulick served in the Civil War.

DR. WM. H. WEIRICH (1841-1912) had his medical training at Lombard University in Pennsylvania and served in the Civil War as Surgeon with Co. F., 213 Pa. Infantry. In 1876 he came to Washington to associate with Drs. Wood and Wilson. He then opened his office at about 126 South Main Street and had a very successful practice.

DR. WM. A. GOTT (1874-1945) attended schools in Washington and graduated from Medical School in Chicago in 1901. As stated in an early publication, "Dr. Gott is a home product and Washington has considerable pride in watching his successful development" (1906).

Dr. Gott spent time in the service during World War I. His office was at 126 South Main Street. He worked diligently, as all doctors of this time, in the flu epidemic of 1918. This was probably the most severe epidemic of flu that Washington ever experienced. There was hardly a family in town that didn't have a relative die during this period.

Dr. Gott moved his practice to Peoria in the 1920's.

DR. WILLIS A. MANSFIELD (1858-1936) came to Washington in 1894. He was born in Marengo, Illinois, and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1881 and from Northwestern Medical School in 1884. He practiced for ten years in Metamora and then at 201 Walnut Street in Washington.

Dr. Mansfield's greatest love was to fish and hunt. His cottage at Rome, Illinois, was a meeting place for all his friends to gather for fish, pheasant, and mushroom dinners. Each year he would go to Nebraska to hunt pheasants. He was the expert in our community to identify mushrooms.

He was active in his early years in community projects.

DR. HARLEY A. ZINSER (1871—2-15-1942). Attended local schools and Lake Forrest University and graduated from Rush Medical College in 1895. He practiced in Roanoke for ten years and came to Washington in 1905. His father operated the Zinser Drug Store. He served in World War I and was commissioned a 1st Lt. in the Medical Corps.

Dr. Zinser was well known by all with his friendly wit and a nickname for most everyone. In his later years he nearly lost complete eyesight, and his Airedale dog always accompanied him to the drug store. Dr. Zinser was respected for his most complete knowledge of medicine.

Mrs. Caroline Martini, a daughter, lives at the home-stead, 105 Washington Street. Mrs. Martini has two daughters: Mrs. Marilyn Tanton, who has three boys, and Mrs. Roslyn Gott, who has a set of twins (boy and girl) and a daughter. Both families live in the area.

Eugene S. Zinser, a son, has two boys and a girl. His daughter, Mrs. Patricia Nevels, has one boy and one girl. The son, Steele, has one daughter and one son. This family lives in Dallas, Texas. This makes a total of five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren for Dr. Zinser.

DR. O. P. BENNETT (d. 1944) Dr. Bennett practiced in Washington thirty-eight years, having been in Chicago for six years and ten years in Mazon, Illinois. He was a graduate of Chicago Physicians and Surgeons School, a branch of the University of Illinois. He served in World War I as a Captain in the Medical Corps.

Dr. Bennett was a prominent physician, politician (Democrat), stock raiser, and dog fancier.

He imported Collie dogs from England, bred, and shipped them throughout the United States. He wrote a book on the history and handling of Collie dogs and was considered one of the foremost authorities on Collies in the United States.

His love for purebred stock then turned to registered Shorthorn cattle. He became president of the Shorthorn Cattle Association. In later years he turned to registered Duroc hogs. He always strived for the best.

Dr. Bennet was very active in the Democratic Party. Before coming to Washington, he served in the State Legislature. While in Washington, he served as Township Supervisor for many years. It was through this tenure that South Main Street was paved.

His first office was above the Danforth Bank Building and later at 126 South Main Street, which is presently the parking lot for the First National Bank. He was a very ambitious man, both in his practice of medicine and in his many diversified activities.

His daughter, Mrs. Marguerite Harvey (deceased), was instrumental in the continuing growth of our Public Library.

A son, Wayne, retired, was active in the banking business in Chicago, serving as a vice-president.



DR. LEE E. MONROE (1885-1973) A friend to all was Dr. Monroe, who was a practicing physician in Washington for forty years. He was born in Eureka, Missouri, February 22, 1885, son of L. E. and Mary

Brown Monroe. He married Vere Paul April 27, 1910, in Kansas City, Missouri. Mrs. Monroe is now living in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, near their only child, a son, L. E. Monroe, and the three grandchildren. Dr. Monroe graduated from the University of Missouri School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Before coming to Washington, he was chief surgeon for Missouri and Pacific Railroad in Kansas City, Missouri. He practiced for two years in Eureka, Missouri, two years in Bonne Terre, Missouri, and for a short time in St. Louis.

Dr. Monroe was a first lieutenant in the United State Medical Corps during World War I. He was a staff member at Proctor Hospital for twenty years. He was affiliated with Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Nu.

His life was devoted to helping his fellow man in any way.

DR. M. H. WHITLOCK came here in 1933 and practiced for about five or six years. His office was at 127 South Main Street. He previously practiced in Peoria.

DR. GEORGE L. COHEN (1902-1959) came to Washington in 1938. His office was in the Heiple Bldg., 107 North Main Street. He was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, and was a veteran of World War II. He was a member of the Consistory, Shrine, and all of the local medical societies. He can probably be best remembered for his rather keen and dry humor. He always participated in local affairs and was a member of the Washington Civic Association.

DR. LAWRENCE FOULKE came to Washington in 1937. He practiced here four years with offices in the Heiple Building. He enlisted in the service and is presently practicing in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

DR. LILLIAN L. RICH opened an office at 201 Walnut Street in 1940 and stayed at this location for twenty-two years. She was the first woman physician in Washington, having previously worked in the Peoria State Hospital for four years and for a short period of time had an office in Pekin, Illinois.

Dr. Rich attended Washington High School, University of Illinois, and graduated from Rush Medical College, a division of the University of Chicago, in 1934.

Her friendly smile and concern for all seemed to be a trademark of her practice. There were many years that she delivered 100 babies in our community. As she often said, "This is the happiest part in the practice of medicine."

She left Washington in 1962 with the idea of retiring in North Carolina. Her plans of developing the hobby of marquetry soon diminished as she continues to be active in the medical profession in Black Mountain, North Carolina.

DR. JULIO BARRON started practicing in Washington in 1960. He graduated from School of Medicine of National University of Mexico, Mexico City in 1951. His native town in Mexico City. Dr. Barron worked at the Peoria State Hospital before coming to our city and

locating at 118 Peoria Street and then moving to 201 Walnut in 1962. He left his practice to work in the Medical Department of Caterpillar Tractor Company in 1972.

DR. HERBERT HOSTETLER was here from 1962 to 1967. He was called into the service. Then he specialized in anesthesia, and presently is practicing in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### Physicians Presently In Washington

DR. C. J. FORRETTE came to Washington in 1949. He graduated from Loyola University College of Medicine in 1943. Office at 102 Walnut Street. Hometown—Chicago, Illinois. Wife's maiden name — Harriet Schultz, Chicago, Illinois. Children: Mrs. Carol Carius, David John, and Patty.

DR. GREGORIO F. MORI came to Washington in 1968. Graduated from Havana University Medical School, Havana Cuba, in 1967. Office at 1412 Washington Road. Hometown — Havana, Cuba. Wife's maiden name — Sonya Fernandez, Havana, Cuba. Children: Sonya, Juan Carlos.

DR. WENDELL E. CARTER came to Washington in 1962. Graduated from University of Illinois in 1959. Office at 2465 Washington Road. Hometown — New Lenox, Illinois. Wife's maiden name — Lois Hutchcraft, Peoria, Illinois. Children: Vicky, Genanne, Leslee, Bobby, Melodie, and Wen

DR. PHILLIP H. BAER came to Washington in 1973. Graduated from University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1969. Office at 118 Peoria Street. Hometown — Tremont, Illinois. Wife's maiden name — Maryjane Unsicker, Tremont, Illinois. Children: Jane, Bryan, and Jill.

DR. N. A. ANTONY came to Washington in 1974. Graduated from Trivandrum Medical College in 1957, Kerala, India. Hometown — Kumbalangi, Cochin, India. Wife's maiden name — Rosey George of Ernakulam, Cochin, India. Children: None.

DR. WARD C. ADAMS came to Washington in 1945. Located at the present address of 205 Walnut Street. Took over Dr. Gerald Barker's practice, who had moved here one and one-half years previously from California. He attended Eureka College three years prior to going to Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery 1935-1939. Children: Robert, Sharon, and Thomas (deceased).

### DENTISTS

The first dental work in Washington was done by physicians, and this was the extracting of teeth. It has been told that occasionally a dentist would come into the Hotel for a few days and do some dentistry. There were dentists in Peoria, and many people who were in the need for restorative work would either take the train or make the all-day trip in the buggy.

DR. J. F. HOOVER (1838-?) was the first dentist of note in Washington, coming in 1863. He came from Ohio to Illinois in 1855 and served his dental apprenticeship in Peoria. His office was at 110 Washington Square, and he had a successful practice until 1898.

DR. EDWIN A. MORROW (1868-1932) started practice in Springfield, Illinois, and came to Washington in 1899. He was first associated with Dr. J. F. Hoover but soon started to practice at 110 Washington Square. He was born in Creighton, Missouri, and graduated from Kansas City Dental College.

Dr. Morrow held many positions of trust and responsibility in Washington, serving as president of Commercial Club, the first president of Kiwanis Club, president of school board, member of Oak Knoll Sanitorium, and past master of the Masons. As quoted in the *Tazewell County Reporter*, "We found him a true friend and upright and honorable in every way. He was always glad and willing to do his part in every good endeavor."

His widow, Mrs. Ethel (Morrow) Storey, lives at 200 South High Street.

DR. CLAIRE MCCLUNG practiced for twelve years before coming to Washington in 1908. His first office was in the Esser Building and later moved to the Heiple Building at 107 North Main Street. He left Washington in 1925 to practice in Chicago.

DR. LYONS practiced in the Heiple Building at 107 North Main Street from 1925 to 1928.

DR. DANIEL B. CLYMORE (d. 1964) came to Washington in 1929. He was a native of Vienna, Illinois, and graduated from the University of St. Louis Dental School. Prior to his coming to Washington, he worked at the Peoria State Hospital. He was active in the church, Masons, school board, and also in the Peoria Dental Society. He practiced for ten years in the Heiple Building, 107 North Main, but spent most of his years practicing at 128 South Main Street.

Mrs. Faye Clymore lives in Newcastle, Indiana. A son Daniel, resides in Alliance, Ohio.

DR. HURST spent one year in the Heiple Building in about 1939.

### Dentists Presently In Washington

DR. HOWARD K. MUERI came to Washington in 1932. Graduated from Washington University Dental School in 1931. Office at 110 Washington Square. Hometown — Highland, Illinois. Wife's maiden name—June Higgins, Greenville, Illinois. Children: Mrs. Shirley O'Neil, Aurora, Illinois. Dr. Mueri was recently made a life-time member of the American Dental Association.

DR. WAYNE J. KINSINGER to Washington in 1946. Graduated from University of Illinois in 1941. Office at 301 South Main Street. Hometown — Washington, Illinois. Wife's maiden name — Ruth Robison, Delavan, Illinois. Children: David and James.



DR. H. W. ENGEL to Washington in 1954. Graduated from Loyola University Dental College in 1954. Office at 118 Peoria Street. Hometown — Carlock, Illinois. Wife's maiden name — Marvine Schultz, Stanford, Illinois. Children: Tami, Karen, Jill and Penny.

DR. ROBERT B. SULLIVAN to Washington in 1957. Graduated from Loyola University Dental College in 1951. Office at 511 Peoria Street. Hometown — Eureka, Illinois. Wife's maiden name — Mary Ann Wetzberger, Peoria, Illinois. Children: Michael, John, Barth and Mary Kathleen.

DR. RONALD R. JOHNSON to Washington in 1964. Graduated from Northwestern University Dental College in 1961. Office at 2465 Washington Road. Hometown — Chicago, Illinois. Wife's maiden name — Marie Devaney, Galway, Ireland. Children: Kenneth and Keith.

DR. FRANK W. IERULLI to Washington in 1964. Graduated from Loyola University Dental College in 1964. Office at 112 South Main Street. Hometown — Peoria, Illinois. Wife's maiden name — Jan Norvell, Litchfield, Illinois. Children: Katherine, Mary Lee, Frank, John, and Judith.

## CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIANS

DR. JAMES R. MARSA came to Washington in December of 1963. He opened his first office at 120 Walnut Street on January 20, 1964. On February 20, 1966, the office was relocated to its present address, 609 Peoria Street. Dr. Marsa graduated from Adelphian Academy and attended Andrews University for three years in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He graduated from National College of Chiropractic in Chicago in 1963. He served two years in the U. S. Army Medical Corps. He received a certificate for 300 hours of post graduate study in orthopedics and is a qualified Chiropractic Orthopedist. His home is Filion, Michigan. He and his wife, the former Marlyn Jean Judy of East Peoria, Illinois, have three children Tamara Jean, David Wayne, and Kimberly Sue.

DR. STEVEN R. SAUDER started his practice in Washington in April of 1971. He studied at the University of Illinois from 1964 to 1966. Dr. Sauder graduated from the National College of Chiropractic (Lombard, Illinois) in 1970 and took his internship at Chicago General Health Service. Additionally, he has served as resident in Clinical Neurology at Lombard Clinic Teaching Assistantship in Anatomy, National College. He is a native of Washington and Peoria and is married to the former Vicki Dawn Rocke, Delavan, Illinois. Their children are Jennifer Leigh, Barbara Christine, and Amy Dawn.

## HISTORY OF PHARMACIES

Since William Holland founded the city of Washington in 1825, the inhabitants of this city have received excellent medical treatment. An example of

such treatment is ever present in the pharmacies that have served the Washington area for one hundred thirty-six years.

It was in 1838 when Dr. R. W. Burton opened the first pharmacy. Over a twenty-one year period, Dr. Burton continued his practice in medicine, as well as running a drug store. Then, in 1859, Dr. R. W. Burton died, leaving Washington without a pharmacy.

After nine years of waiting, Washington once again had a drug store. A gentleman by the name of Israel Zinser had decided to get into the pharmacy business, and in 1868 Mr. Zinser and Solomon Sonnenstein became partners in the Zinser Drug Store. Mr. Zinser left Washington in 1871 to start a drug store in Plainfield but returned to Washington in 1873 to reunite his old partnership. By 1876 Mr. Zinser had purchased the whole interest in the business and was well on his way toward being a leader in pharmacy. Mr. Zinser received recognition at the organizational meeting of the Illinois Pharmaceutical Association held in Springfield, Illinois, in 1880 when he was appointed to a committee to draft the first Pharmacy Practice Act for Illinois. Israel Zinser continued to serve the Washington area until his death in 1901.



Upon the death of Israel Zinser, the Zinser Drug Store was taken over by Elmer Zinser. Elmer dispensed medications with the same precision which he had learned from his father and carried on the drug business until his death in 1920. While the Zinser Drug Store was becoming a legend in its own time, a second pharmacy was being started.

In 1875, Dr. Alfred Alphonso came to Washington and opened the Alphonso Drug Store. Dr. Alphonso was also very interested in music and therefore brought a touch of the fine arts to Washington by erecting the Washington Academy of Music in 1877. These two interests kept Dr. Alphonso busy until he died in 1901.

Dr. Alphonso left a daughter behind who ran the business until 1909, when Frank Brady purchased the

drug store. Mr. Brady had originally worked under Israel Zinser but left Zinser's store due to an argument to join Sutliff and Case, a wholesale drug company, until he bought the Alphonso store. Since Mr. Brady was not a registered pharmacist, he hired Charles Strathmond to work in his pharmaceutical department. Upon Mr. Brady's death in 1918, Viola Brady ran the store for several months before selling to Walter Linder, her nephew-in-law. Walter Linder was born and raised in Peoria; he attended the University of Illinois but never received his degree in pharmacy. As manager of the Linder Drug Store, Mr. Linder hired a registered pharmacist and thus afforded himself the time to converse with his customers, which resulted in a very friendly atmosphere in the store.

In 1944, Mr. Linder died and his widow sold the store a month later to Mr. Carl Pope. Mr. Pope, who also was not a pharmacist, decided to convert the store to a drug sundry shop. This conversion led the way to Mr. Pope selling the store in 1946 to Mr. William Tully, Sr. Mr. Tully took over the sundry shop on the north side of Commercial Square for a period of three years. In 1949, Mr. Tully decided to go out of business because he felt that "when grocery stores start selling drug items, it's time for me to sell out." And sell out, he did. He sold his store to an industrious man by the name of Conibear. R. C. Conibear, who owned a store in Morton, reconverted the drug sundry business into a regular pharmacy. Over the eight-year period which Conibear owned the Conibear Drug Store, he was in constant competition with a man by the name of Frank W. Steimle.



Frank Steimle came to Washington when the widow of Elmer Zinser sold the Zinser Drug Store in 1921. This twenty-eight year old man had to endure everything from the depression to a fire which burned his store to the ground. The tragic fire in 1931 showed how dedicated Mr. Steimle was to the people of Washington, for he simply started a new store. As a public servant for thirty-eight years, Mr. Steimle was a member of the Board of Education for the Washington Grade School for ten years, city alderman for twelve years, active in church affairs, and a member of many other local organizations.

Upon his death on January 16, 1959, the store was sold to man by the name of Arthur Stephan of Fairbury, Illinois. Mr. Stephan did not own the store long, however, due to health reasons, and he decided to sell the store just two weeks after he bought it. March 17, 1959,



Donald R. Gronewold from Farmington bought the old Steimle store and set up a business called Don's Pharmacy, Inc. He was later joined by E. R. Lewis, Jr. and E. R. Lewis, Sr. of Canton, Illinois, to form an incorporated business. As the new owner, Don Gronewold was predestined to start where Frank Steimle left off. Mr. Gronewold immediately became involved in local politics, serving as an alderman as well as a member on the police commission. This University of Illinois College of Pharmacy graduate has been past chairman of the township's Cancer Fund, president of Civic Club, member and past president of the Rotary Club, member of the Washington Association of Commerce, and a member of the United Methodist Church. As an active member in pharmaceutical organizations, Don Gronewold is presently a member and past president of the Central Illinois Pharmaceutical Association, as well as being a member of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Pharmaceutical Association. In 1970, Don Gronewold was honored by receiving the "Bowl of Hygeia", an award presented yearly to one pharmacist in each state of the union by the A. H. Robins Company. In 1971, Don's Pharmacy, Inc. moved from the old Steimle Building to 100 South Main Street where it has been now for three years.

Don's Pharmacy, Inc. was not the only pharmacy in Washington during these years, because when R. C. Conibear sold his store in 1957, Mr. Vaubel and Mr. William Fry purchased the store on a joint business deal. Mr. Fry, who graduated in 1952 from St. Louis College of Pharmacy was a native of Springfield, Illinois. Like Frank Steimle, Mr. Fry's store was struck by fire in 1959, and he was forced to rebuild. In 1965, Mr. Fry bought out Mr. Vaubel to become sole owner of the business. Mr. Fry continued his business until 1973, when he closed his store to enter hospital pharmacy at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, Illinois.





At that point, it may have appeared that Washington would have only one pharmacy in town, but on August 5, 1974, a native Washingtonian, James Arn opened an apothecary on Wilmor Road. A graduate of the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy, Mr. Arn has gained vast experience from the jobs he held in Chicago, Washington, and Peoria.

As anyone can see, Washington has been treated well by the pharmaceutical profession in the last one hundred thirty-six years. It has taken men like, Zinser, Alphonso, Steimle, Fry, Gronewold, and Arn who have been dedicated to serving people to fight sickness. They deserve the praise of a grateful community.

#### WASHINGTON HOSPITAL

On November 17, 1942, a nursing home and hospital was opened at 127 South Main Street, Washington, by Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Lasance, Sr. The first three patients were Mrs. Jennie Davis, Mrs. R. F. Tanton, and Miss M. Cummings. On November 26, 1942, the first baby, a boy named Charles Allen, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Feucht at the facility. In December of that year, a hospital staff was named comprised of O. P. Bennett M. D., President; L. E. Monroe M. D. and George Cohen M. D., Vice Presidents; L. L. Rich M. D., Secretary and Treasurer; and Roberta Lasance R. N., Superintendent. The above officers plus Dr. D. B. Clymore and Dr. H. K. Mueri constituted the Board of Directors

which determined hospital policies. Many individuals donated money for equipment and the Washington American Legion Post organized a drive for funds to be used for necessary medical and surgical equipment.

By the end of March, 1943, it was apparent that there was not sufficient room available to meet demands so efforts were made to find larger quarters. The following month the Reyburn home on Holland Street was purchased by the Lasance family who moved to that location in May, 1943. Extensive remodeling was done to the sixteen room structure, and more equipment was purchased. Because of the war some equipment was difficult to obtain, so Robert Anderson of Washington built the autoclave used for sterilizing surgical needs.

Open house was held at the new location on October 10, 1943, with over 600 visitors touring the building, consisting of rooms for the elderly on the first floor, a maternity wing with nursery in front upstairs, and a medical-surgical section to the rear on the second floor.

At that time the name of the facility was officially changed from Lasance Hospital to Washington Hospital in appreciation of the cooperation of Washington citizens and organizations. During that first year of operation, approximately fifty babies were born, and the facility was used not only by the four local doctors but also doctors from the surrounding area. In 1945, Ray Lasance, Jr. joined his father in the business; later his wife, Tiena, and his sister, Mary, were active in the operation of the hospital.

Following the death of the senior Mr. Lasance in 1949 and the subsequent illness of his wife the following year, a decision was made to terminate ownership of the hospital and an offer was made to turn it over to the city. During the seven years of its operation, 1,250 hospital cases plus other miscellaneous surgical and medical cases were served by the hospital in addition to caring for the elderly. In December, 1950, the property was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Max Baltz for use as a nursing home for the aged.



## WASHINGTON NURSING HOME

In December 1950 Mr. and Mrs. Max H. Baltz purchased the Washington Hospital from Mrs. Robert Lasance. After extensive remodeling and refurbishing the Illinois Department of Public Health issued a license to operate the facility as a Nursing Home effective January 15, 1951.

The first patient, Miss Cora Hill, was admitted on January 15, 1951. She had lived on Market Street most of her life but had been hospitalized and unable to return home. She spent two and a half years at the home.

It took about a year and a half to reach capacity of forty patients. For the next twenty-two years the Home averaged at least 90% of capacity at all times. The staff grew from six (with the owners relieving on days off) to about twenty-five full time employees. In 1972 the nursing home was licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health as a sheltered care home. It closed its doors as a health care facility on June 22, 1973.

During these years over seven hundred patients were admitted; the average length of stay was about one and a half years. The last patient admitted was Katherine Seizinger from Peoria; the last one discharged was Floyd E. Bradshaw of East Peoria.

In 1957 a rehabilitation nursing program was started in the Home, one of the first in the nation. It was a three-year demonstration program sponsored by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (Federal), Illinois Public Aid Commission (State), and Forest Park Foundation (Local). Many other states later adopted the program. The rehabilitation nursing program has been continued at the Washington Nursing Center.

The Washington Nursing Center on Newcastle Road was opened with fifty-one beds in October 1962. The facility was planned and built specifically for an active rehabilitation nursing program. In 1966 an additional thirty-eight beds were built along with enlarged services areas, and in 1970 another thirty-three beds were added

for a total of 122 beds. An average occupancy of 95% as been maintained.

The first patient, admitted on October 9, 1962, was David Guthrie, Lexington, Illinois. A total of 1,350 patients have been admitted during this time.

Due to the highly skilled rehabilitation program, the average length of stay has declined to seven months with 22% of discharged patients returning to their home or homes of relatives, and another 14% discharged to lesser skilled facilities at lower cost.

The "volunteer" program was started in 1957 when sixty community volunteers were recruited. Today there are about 250 volunteers who visit the patients and put more "living into their lives".

In 1973, 5,000 volunteer hours were given, with an accumulation of more than 16,000 hours in all. The first activity director was Emojean Hexamer of Washington, and presently Betty Olds of Beverly Manor heads this department, having served in this capacity for nine years. This department now has two assistants and is responsible for recruiting, training and coordinating the volunteers and their duties.

To further strengthen the nursing rehabilitation program, all registered nurses and licensed practical nurses are encouraged to continue their education by taking extra recognized nursing courses. Nurse's aides are offered opportunities to participate in one and two day workshops. Today there are 125 full and part-time employees at Washington Nursing Center.

The Center participates with Illinois Central College through its Division of Health Occupations to provide twelve weeks of clinical experience in Geriatric Rehabilitation Nursing for Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse students. There is also a clinical program for Dental Hygiene and Medical Records Assistant students.

Over the years it became apparent that many people could remain out of institutions longer if they had some



supportive and protective services available, so, to complete the Health Care Facility Complex at Washington Nursing Center, an eight unit apartment complex was planned, designed and built in 1970 for retired couples and singles. On October 15, 1970 the first resident was Mrs. Edith Kern, who lived alone for three years. At age 95 she moved to live with a relative. Mr. E. E. Habecker, Sr. was the second resident and lived in one of the single apartments for two and one-half years.

In May, 1973 fourteen more apartment units were opened to complete the New Castle Apartment Complex.

## LAWYERS IN WASHINGTON

The first lawyer to practice in Washington, Illinois, was THORNTON WALKER who came from Virginia. No records are available to indicate at what precise time he came or how long he remained.

JOHN W. DOUGHERTY was born in New Castle County, Delaware, in 1882. In 1857 he settled in Washington and became engaged in the grocery business. He then commenced the study of law and was admitted to the bar in January, 1874. He became the first City Attorney of Washington in 1878. He compiled a history of Washington in 1878 which is one of the few existing records of its beginning. He died in 1901 and is buried in the Glendale Cemetery.

ALBERT R. RICH was born on a farm near Metamora in 1845. In 1876 he graduated from Union College of Law in Chicago and was admitted to the bar on July 4, 1876. He moved to Washington in 1901 and engaged in the general practice of law. His son, Ernest Rich, was graduated from the University of Illinois Law School in 1912. He joined his father then in the practice of law for a short time. Albert R. Rich died in 1918 and is buried in the Glendale Cemetery.

CHARLES A. WALTIRE was born in New Salem, Fairfield County, Ohio. He received his legal education at the University of Michigan, moved to Washington in 1897, and engaged in the general practice of law. He served several terms as city attorney and was a prominent Republican leader.

RAE C. HEIPLE was born in Washington, Illinois, in 1896. He was admitted to the bar in 1923 and has engaged in the general practice of the law in Washington ever since. He has two sons who are lawyers. One son, Rae C. Heiple II, who was born in 1929 and admitted to the bar in 1953, practices law in Abingdon, Illinois. The other son, James D. Heiple, who was born in 1933 and admitted to the bar in 1957, is an Associate Circuit Judge sitting in Pekin, Illinois.

E. J. ELLIOTT graduated from Northwestern Law School. He came to Washington in 1921 and practiced law here for a short time.

WAYNE C. TOWNLEY, a native of Macomb, Illinois, graduated from Illinois Wesleyan Law School and was admitted to the bar. He married Isabella Danforth of Washington, Illinois. They lived in Washington from 1924 until the early 1930's, and he engaged in the general practice of law here until he moved to Bloomington, Illinois.

KENNETH W. BLACK was born in 1912, in Peoria, Illinois, where he attended local schools, graduating from Bradley University in 1934. He was admitted to the bar in 1937, after receiving his J. D. degree from the University of Chicago. He and his wife moved to Washington on September 1, 1938, and have lived here ever since. During that time he has engaged in the general practice of law in Washington and also in Peoria with the firm of Black, Black & Borden. He served as the City Attorney from 1941 to 1953 and from 1957 to the present time. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bradley University.

LaVERNE ESSER BLUMENSHINE was born in 1920 and raised in Washington, Illinois. She was graduated from the University of Illinois Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1944. She has only recently engaged in general practice of the law in Washington, Illinois.

MELVIN O. MOEHLE was born in 1922 in Okawville, Illinois and admitted to the bar in 1948, after graduating from the University of Missouri Law School. He and his family moved to Washington in 1950 and have lived here ever since. Since that time he has engaged in the general practice of the law in Washington and has also engaged in general practice in Pekin with the Professional Corporation of Moehle, Reardon, Smith & Day, Ltd. He served as City Attorney from 1953 to 1957 and has been instrumental in the formation of the Washington Park District in 1968 and the development of the District since that date.

BRUCE W. BLACK was born in 1944 and attended local schools. Following his graduation from Bradley University, he graduated from the University of Illinois Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1971. He is associated with his father in the practice of law in Washington and Peoria, Illinois.

DEAN R. ESSIG was born in 1942 and raised in Washington, Illinois, where he attended local schools. He graduated from the University of Illinois Law School and was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1974. He is now engaged in the general practice of law in Washington, Illinois.

KENNETH L. BLACK was born in 1942 and attended local schools. Following his graduation from Bradley University, he graduated from the University of Louisville Law School in the spring of 1974. Following his admission to the bar, he will be associated in practice with his father and brother.

\*\*\*\*\*

H. D. Harms, banker and real estate dealer in large tracts and timber lands, was born in Washington.

Frank W. Hops, cashier at Henry Denhart & Co., bankers, moved with his parents to Washington in 1874.

# CLUBS CHAPTERS TROOPS VETERANS

## WASHINGTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Washington Civic Club meets every Tuesday evening at the Tally-Ho Restaurant, as a Knife and Fork Club, to have a program of current events and fellowship. This organization is the oldest of the men's social groups within our community and presently has a membership of thirty-six.

The club had its beginnings as the Kiwanis Club which was organized July 24, 1924. Meetings were held in Woodman Hall, which was in the Heiple Building. This was a very active group within the community, having a charter membership of thirty-seven. The depression in 1932 caused the Kiwanis Club to be disbanded, as the membership declined to the point of not being practical.

It was decided to re-organize the Kiwanis Club, November 26, 1936, since the charter had not been cancelled. The meetings were held in the basement of the Methodist Church, and the church women served the meals. It was during this period that the club was very active. They organized the first Boy Scout Troop in 1936, the first Cub Scout Troop in 1938, and held the

first Athletic Banquet for high school athletes in 1937. Due to the fact that smoking was not allowed, the meeting place was changed to the J. B. Hoke Restaurant, September 5, 1940, which is presently the Mary Rachel Antique Shop.

The Washington Civic Association was organized January 9, 1941, as a locally controlled organization, for they resented paying the national dues to the Kiwanis Club. It was also January 9, 1941, that the club decided to have their own meeting room above the Danforth Bank, now the Washington Federal Savings & Loan Building.

A kitchen was installed and furniture was furnished from the Hoke Restaurant. It was within these facilities that the club became a closely knit organization and many used the rooms throughout the week. When current topics were not debated, pinocle, shuffleboard, and even ping-pong tournaments were the sources of interest for all. The Eureka Golf Course summer stags and picnics have been an institution with club members.

It was decided to move again as a caterer could not be found to carry meals upstairs. The next move was to Martha's Town House, 215 East Jefferson in 1965. The club remained there until it moved to the Neptune Swim Club in 1968. In 1969 the location was changed to the Tally-Ho Restaurant.

As stated within the constitution of the Washington Civic Club, the organization has always strived "to provide, through this club, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build a better community".



## ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE

The Washington Association of Commerce was organized April 6, 1959 with an address at 108 Washington Square, with a membership fee of \$10.00 per year.

The Charter Incorporators were Richard L. Bayless, Robert J. Roehm, Clarence O. Zimmerman, Clarence A. Linsley, Joseph Archibald, and William E. Fry. The first officers were Richard L. Bayless, President; Clarence O. Zimmerman, Vice President and Treasurer; Joseph Archibald, Secretary. The First Board of Directors were Robert J. Roehm, Herman F. Essig, Clarence A. Linsley, William E. Fry, Richard Scott, and James Ward.





The purpose of the Association is to advance the commercial, agricultural, industrial, and civic interests of the City of Washington and adjacent territories.

The first Association of Commerce Day was planned with a tent in the Dr. Forrette lot at the corner of Walnut Street and Washington Square. There have been numerous projects discussed and accomplished over the years; one of the early projects was the need for doctors in the city. The Association was instrumental in bringing Dr. Barron, Dr. Hostetler, Dr. Mori, Dr. Baer, and Dr. Antony to our city.

Other early projects include: better traffic controls for the city and the square; Booster Days for merchant promotions; Christmas decorations; better lighting for the square; removal of the Sullivan Building for parking and as removal as a blight.

The first Washington Day Banquet was held February 22, 1960. The speaker was Publisher W. Dean McNaughton who told of his personal experiences on a trip to Russia. The banquet was held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in the Educational Building. The Association is responsible for the annual Washington Day Banquets, whose purpose is to honor the senior and junior citizen who have made a significant contribution to the community. Citizens that have received awards are Miss Louise Harte, Glenn Harkins, Dr. Lee Monroe, Richard Alexander, Mrs. Paul Trailkill, August Esser, Mrs. Rufus Rich, Miss Frances Whittaker, Herman Essig, Mrs. E. K. Mosny, Ray Abernathy, Mrs. Alice Snell, James T. McDaniel, Ed Habecker Sr., Norman Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Laban Lytle, Tom Boyd, Rev. Ben Esch, Robert Dubois, Fred Sweitzer, Mrs. Guido Tiezzi, Earl M. Zimmerman, Robert A. Paxson, Claire Crabill, Ronald Dingleline, and Henry J. Vogelsang.

Another project of the Association of Commerce was a contest for a town slogan. A \$25.00 Savings Bond was given for the best slogan for the City of Washington. The slogan adopted was "City On The Grow".

The Civic Improvement Committee met with Governor Kerner at Pekin, and he assured them that the McCluggage Bridge Inter-Change program would be completed by 1963.

A motion was made and the project was accomplished that the Association petition the City Council to name the city square *Washington Square*.

The Association wrote a letter to the City of Washington to endorse the proposed junior college, the site for the college to be east of McCluggage Bridge on top of the hill between Route 24 and Highview Road.

On April 12, 1966, brochures were prepared on available business buildings and land in and around Washington.

On May 9, 1966 the Association moved that a memorial fund be set up for Mayor John Blumenshine who passed away suddenly.

The Association supported the Farmdale Reservoir as a recreation and conservation area.

In the fall of 1971, the Association started the project of beautification of the city, especially the commercial buildings. Kenyon & Associates were hired, and the plan is still underway.

A current project begun in 1973 is working with the Washington Business Council.

The Association of Commerce has had a struggle to survive. Good men have spent long hours on projects with small results at times, but eventually the goal was accomplished. Old members have become discouraged working for what seemed at the time a lost cause, but then new young members have come along to take up the yoke and carry it on a little further. As is true of all organizations, the job of keeping interest is a great one. The efforts have been worthwhile, for the Association of Commerce has been a good thing for Washington.

## WASHINGTON BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Washington Business Council is an affiliate of the Chamber of Commerce. It began May, 1973.

The purpose of this organization is: (a) to develop and maintain good will relationship between businesses, (b) to develop and assist in the planning and organizing of business activities, (c) to promote Washington as a site for commercial development, (d) to improve communications between business community and the governmental divisions, (e) to provide assistance and services to new and existing businesses.

Accomplishments of the organization have been: 1) set up an office with a paid secretary, located behind the office supply section at Herbst Company, 2) newsletter published monthly and mailed to all Washington area businesses and civic organizations. They have organized the following promotions: Independence Days in July, 1973; Moonlight Madness Sale; Fall Harvest Sale, Santa Claus project with cooperation of the Washington J. C's. They have had several informative speakers during the year. Special events will be planned each year.

## WASHINGTON JAYCEES

The Washington Jaycees is a non-profit civic organization composed of young men in the community between the ages of 21 and 35. The Jaycees have been organized for the following purposes: A) to provide civic services



to the local community and its citizens by means of active participation in projects designed to improve the City of Washington, B) to provide young men in the community an opportunity to become involved in local affairs and to enable them to obtain training for future community leadership.

In March, 1949 the Washington Jaycees were formed at an organizational meeting attended by twenty-seven men. The first president of the chapter was Bob Johnson, and the first project undertaken was to clean and paint the City Building.

Since the inception of the club in 1949, the Washington Jaycees have undertaken many valuable and worthwhile projects that have benefitted the community. Some of the more notable projects are as follows: Christmas Decorations, Light Bulb Sales, Evergreen Trees in Square, Jaycee City Welcome Signs, Founder Day Banquet, Scholarship Awards, Chicken Bar-Be-Que, Flying Flags on Holidays, Miss Washington Pageant, Jr. Sports Jamboree, Punt, Pass, and Kick, Fountain Cover, Haunted House, and Playground Equipment.

Since 1973 the major project for the local club has been to purchase playground equipment for the City Park. Thanks to the active members of the club and the support of the people of Washington we now have the playground equipment installed and in use. Hopefully within a few months our financial obligation will be paid in full. We must now seek a new project that will make our community an even better place to live.

## WASHINGTON JAYCETTES

One fine day in the autumn of 1951, after a Jaycee meeting, the wives of these dedicated men decided they could organize a club that would supplement the Jaycees in their activities. They might also go out on a limb and do a project on their own, if, of course, the membership felt the project was not too daring. The only qualification to join, then as now, is the candidate has to be the wife of a Jaycee in good standing.

It took six months to organize a project that was mutually acceptable to the members. The project was a hat show and card party, held on March 7, 1952, in the



city building. It was quite a success with a capacity crowd attending.

This was the start of the Jaycee Auxiliary, known as the Washington Jaycettes since 1959. Since then they have come a long way, sponsoring major projects such as the Washington Haunted House in the autumn of 1973.

## WASHINGTON ROTARY CLUB

The Washington Rotary Club was formed in September, 1955, with twenty charter members. The club has now grown to forty-six members. The first meeting place was the basement of the United Methodist Church with the minister of that church, Robert A. Evans, as its first president. In 1956, the meeting place was moved to Kay's Kitchen, which name was later changed to the Washington Town House, and the meeting place has been the same since.

The Washington Rotary Club, as all Rotary Clubs, has a common format with a weekly meal meeting followed by a speaker of community or general interest. Each rotary club throughout the world is encouraged and expected to provide useful projects and services to their community and the world at large. The Washington Rotary Club is no exception and utilizes all its income and people resources for community, youth and international projects.

The community project that the club takes the most pride in is its participation in the formation of the Washington Park District. Although several referendums had failed in the past, the Washington Club in 1966 formed a committee of Rotarians to promote a park district. Four possible sites were found, and the club took options on two of them. Finally, the 55-acre Heyl property adjacent to Lincoln School was chosen. Options on this land taken in October of 1966 were held until the park district was formed and the land was purchased by the park district. The club worked to have the petitions signed for a referendum election and paid the necessary costs of the election. This referendum was passed and the park district was formed in January of 1968.

The club has continued to support the park and in 1973 provided two basketball standards for the park





district and in 1974 provided a picnic shelter and lane dividers for competitive swimming in the park pool. These last two items cost in excess of \$3,600.

The rotary has found time and energy to support the library. From time to time it has provided magazine subscriptions and in 1972 purchased a study carousel and chairs. In 1958 the club honored Mrs. Marguerite Harvey for many years of excellent services as librarian by presenting her with a special plaque.

Over the years, the Washington Rotary Club has been a source of money in various amounts for numerous projects of community nature. There are too many to mention, but they concern primarily youth activities.

For thirteen years now the Rotary Club has furnished a travelogue program. This program is held on Saturday evenings at the Washington High School and provides a professional speaker with either a slide or movie program. There are seven programs a year, and they provide interesting entertainment for people in the community as well as a major source of income for the club.

The club's interest in the youth of the community has been strong since the inception of the club. For many years the club has sponsored a boy to Boy's State, sent girls to the Girl Scout Camp and provided financial assistance to organized baseball programs in the area. For a number of years the club provided \$100 scholarships for high school students who were going on to college; in all, 16 students received this help. The club also sponsored the athletic banquet at the high school until recently when the Boosters Club was able to take over this activity. Financial support was provided to build the two tennis courts near the high school in 1963. Opportunities for service of a person-to-person nature became available several years ago when a TV set was given to a crippled young girl at the Washington Nursing Home. On another occasion many members went to Peoria to donate blood in memory of a girl who had died from leukemia.

As there are many Rotarians and Rotary Clubs worldwide, it is only natural that Rotarians have interests of an international nature. For a number of years the Rotary Club was the only source of financial support for the AFS program, providing \$1,000 to \$1,500 each year in which students qualified for travel. The AFS program provides for foreign students to come here for a school year and reside with a Washington family and also for qualified Washington High School students to travel

abroad and live with a family in a foreign country. As AFS has now become a Washington tradition, it has become more self-sufficient, and the need for Rotary financing has been reduced.

Another Rotary International program is the Experiment in International Living. The club provides financial support for a college age person from a foreign country to spend six weeks in the Washington area. These people live in the homes of the club members and move from family to family, staying with each family about a week. Rotary has run this program for a number of years and have had young people from England, France, Sweden, Italy and Germany.

The club participates in Rotary Foundations, maintaining a donation level of \$50 per member in this foundation. Rotary Foundation provides for international exchange study programs primarily concerning young adults. Occasionally study groups of this program from foreign countries visit this area and are hosted by the club.

The men of the Rotary Club of Washington feel privileged to live and work in and to be of service to the Washington area community. They are all optimistic about the future of the area and hope to make future business or professional contributions according to their individual calling and to be of service as a club.

## WASHINGTON LIONS CLUB

The Washington Lions Club was chartered April 3, 1971. In October of 1971, the Lions held their first Candy Day. This is an annual event held each October. The money raised is used entirely for sight conservation and blind activities.

On August 24, 1972, the Washington Lions sponsored the Lions Mobile Glaucoma Screening Unit (supervised by the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness) in Washington. One hundred twenty-eight people were tested with two confirmed cases of glaucoma detected.



On April 8, 1974, the Lions kicked off their first Broom Sale. The people of Washington generously supported the broom sale. The money raised was used to buy a plastic model of the eye and ear for Central Grade School, Washington Grade School, Lincoln Grade School, and St. Patrick's Grade School.

Each year the Washington Lions have raised money to buy eye examinations and eye glasses for needy local school children. Also, each year money has been sent to the following: Hadley School for the Blind, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Illinois Camp Lions for Visually Handicapped Children, Dialogue, Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness, CARE, and beginning in 1973-74 to Lions of Illinois Deaf Activities.

Past Presidents of the Washington Lions Club are: Samuel Stimpert, Rudolph Koepple, and Clifton Snow.

### HOPEWELL GRANGE

Back in March, 1907 a group of residents of Hopewell community decided to join some farmers' organization for the benefits that might accrue. Louis Keil, who lived for a time in Ford County and had belonged to a Grange there, favored the Grange (or Patrons of Husbandry), and through his influence it was decided to invite Oliver Wilson of Magnolia Grange in Putnam County to come to address an invited group. Mr. Wilson was later to become State Master and finally National Master of the Grange. Louis Keil met him at the train in Peoria and brought him to the meeting. He spent the night at the Daniel Keil home and next morning Daniel took him to Peoria.

As a result of this meeting, a charter list was begun which was increased at a following meeting to thirty-eight members. At this meeting officers were elected. Among them were: Louis Keil, Master; Louis Stahl, Secretary; and his daughter Anna Stahl, Lecturer; to the last two belongs much of the credit for establishing the firm foundation on which Hopewell Grange was founded. They were leaders who insisted that the rules of the Order be strictly obeyed and the ritualistic work be in no way neglected. Anna Stahl, while Lecturer, printed the first program and organized a team for each of four degrees. Later she became the first Matron of Hopewell Junior Grange. She and her parents attended the early meetings of Illinois State Grange, and in that body she very successfully filled the office of Lady Assistant Steward, Flora and Lecturer.

The meetings of Hopewell Grange were held in the old Hopewell School house. There was some opposition to holding closed meetings in a public building, but this subsided and progress continued.

About 1911, when the new Hopewell School was built, the old structure was purchased and moved across what now is School Street and remodeled to better suit the needs of a meeting place. This served as a prominent community center for many years. The Grange meets every week and often three or four times a week for com-

mittee meetings, degree team, or play practice. It would be well to add here that, often when roads were impassable for vehicles, people (especially the young) would gather in tens and dozens to walk to the meetings.

At first the main inducement for membership in the organization was the opportunity afforded for collective buying. This was practiced for a time but was overshadowed in importance when members learned of the educational, social, and legislative values the Grange had to offer.

The neighborhood in that early day was strictly rural, with practically all of the folks being of German descent, industrious, (perhaps to a fault), honest in the highest degree, and possessing a very well-developed sense of responsibility. Their forefathers came from Europe, where their chances of owning land was very small. When they saw this good land and realized that by working they could own it for themselves, they gave this priority over some of the finer things of life. In no case did they minimize spiritual values and loyalty to God.

Now in listing some of the major contributions of the Grange, one should note that, in the sixty-seven years of its existence, it has never been dormant, has always been active, and that, while the neighborhood was strictly rural, membership took in practically 100% of the population. In accordance with changing times, emphasis has been changed from a farmer organization to a rural community organization.

Some of the noteworthy accomplishments are: presenting the operetta "Sylvia", given in an open-air setting, (the first effort of its kind in the surrounding area), maintaining a softball diamond for some years, and building a shelter in Washington Park. Also, in any cooperative effort, such as the Washington Farmers Co-op or the Peoria Milk Producers, Grange members could always be counted upon as wholeheartedly giving their support.

The Grange since 1952 has been housed in a 40' x 80' hall with auditorium, stage, kitchen, and dining area. This building has been available for church, local functions, and district Grange affairs.

The Grange is a fraternity. To the practical-minded, who think in terms of legislative or material achievement, the very word fraternity denotes solidity and unity of action.

There are three charter members: Anna Stahl, Elmer Keil, and George Keil, all living in the area.



## WASHINGTON MOTHER'S CLUB

On October 1, 1912, this club was organized by Mrs. Clara Kingsbury Denhart, a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church for mothers of the church. There were seventy charter members. The programs were planned for the benefit of mothers in homemaking, helping the needy, and raising children. The first dues were ten cents a year. For charity work, donations of needed items were accepted from many people.



Four members of the club in 1924 began talking about a Public Library in Washington. In 1927 the Mayor was contacted, and the city furnished a heated and lighted room in the City Building, which was formerly the Danforth Hotel. A Library Board was elected from members of the club. The official opening was June 15, 1927. Plans were formed to turn over the library to the city. This was done in June of 1928 and is now tax supported.

The Mother's Club is still a part of Washington social and service work. It is the oldest and continuous club in Washington, sixty-two years this year. It is now open to all women of the community and meets the last Tuesday of the month from September through May of the year. Visitors are always welcome, and we hope many new members will join us. Past Presidents are: Mesdames—Laura Payne, Elna Chellburg, Bert Weeks, Clyde Strubhar, Charles Fish, William Sommers, L. J. Powell, F. S. Heiple, H. B. Urban, Louis Wehner, Alvin Duvall, Buford Thomas, Lloyd Risser, Edith Brown, Emma Petri, Beatrice Loser, Henry Ortl, John Norris, Louise Linder, Flora Hoeflin, Jessie Dixon, Helen Blumenshine, Viola Glabe, George Faubel, R. M. Grafton, Harold Ebert, Guy Lucas, Leo Clark, Rudy Bachman, Benj. H. Smith, Mary Wiese, Pat Christ, and Vila Wenger.

## WASHINGTON WOMAN'S CLUB

In 1923 a group of Washington women organized a Woman's Club and chose the following as their officers: Mrs. Ida Mansfield, President; Mrs. Viola Busse, Vice President; Miss Frieda Streid, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Jennie Denhart, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Francis Ropp, Treasurer.

The Constitution stated that the object of the Club would be to promote civic, educational, and social improvement. From those early days the three departments have expanded to include many new avenues of service. Not only have the cultural and education programs embraced new dimensions, but the Club also promotes

many projects of a practical nature. A few of them are summer workshop scholarships for high school students, sponsorship of the Bloodmobile, a new kitchenette for the City Building, and evergreen plantings for the City Park. Over the years the list of contributions is long and impressive.



In May, 1973 the Club observed its fiftieth anniversary. The charter members, Mrs. John Atwater, Mrs. Chester Birkett, Mrs. Lester Blumenshine, Mrs. John Ficht, Mrs. Rae C. Heiple, Miss Iona Heyl, Mrs. Faye Land, Mrs. Lloyd Risser, Mrs. George Storey, Mrs. J. W. Stormer, and Miss Frieda Streid, recalled with pride their long association as members of Washington Woman's Club and its achievements.

After more than fifty years the object of the Club remains the same with only a few added words. Now it reads, "The object of the Club shall be to promote the moral, educational, and civic betterment of the community of Washington and to work in harmony with the County, District, State and General Federations."

At present there are one hundred ninety-four members.

The Past Presidents are: Mrs. Ida Mansfield, Mrs. Jennie Denhart Schwab, Mrs. Hattie Bennett, Mrs. Ethel Morrow Storey, Mrs. Laura Wepner Wells, Mrs. Mae Tanton, Mrs. Edith White, Mrs. Minnie Nutty, Mrs. Viola Busse, Mrs. Clara Weeks, Miss Katherine Harms, Mrs. Isadore Kilby, Mrs. Ray Grafton, Mrs. Ray Cooper, Mrs. John A. Roehm, Mrs. Rae C. Heiple, Mrs. Katie B. Kinsinger, Mrs. J. W. Stormer, Mrs. Henry L. Ringel, Mrs. David Snell, Mrs. Mildred Adams, Mrs. O. L. Sundstrom, Mrs. Wilson Kimmell, Mrs. Paul W. Busse, Mrs. David E. Larson, Mrs. Edward Essig, Mrs. Alan Mann, Mrs. Ira Miller, Mrs. Edwin H. Starke, Mrs. Carol Maxwell, Mrs. C. F. Boon Burk, Mrs. Ben H. Smith, Mrs. William Shuck, and Mrs. Wayne Kinsinger.

## WASHINGTON JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

On April 27, 1955 a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. David Snell to form a Junior Woman's Club in Washington, Illinois. Thirty-one prospective members attended. Leta Walsmith was elected temporary chairman and Mary Lee Simpson was elected temporary secretary.

The organizational meeting was held May 25, 1955, at the Civic Club rooms; our constitution and by-laws were



adopted. The following officers were elected and installed: Leta Walsmith, President; Pat Zuck, 1st Vice President; Mary Habecker, 2nd Vice President; Della Scoggins, Recording Secretary; Donna McCoy, Corresponding Secretary; Harriet Maddock, Treasurer; and Mrs. David Snell, Contact Chairman from Washington Woman's Club.

The first regular meeting of the Washington Junior Woman's Club was held September 28, 1955. Meetings were held once a month, with the first annual luncheon being May 19, 1956.

Over the years Washington Junior Woman's Club has kept the same aims and goals that they have strived for. In the early years the philanthropic activity of the club was the sponsorship of Stone Cottage of Bartonville State Hospital. Local civic projects have been supporting Recreation Programs, Jaycee Tennis Court Project in 1957-1958, helping needy families, Public Library, participating with the Art Fair, and Booster Days. In 1972-1973 the Juniors started the "Helping Hand" project; this helps children and other needy persons in a time of distress.

When possible, the club participates in all of the state and federated projects. Many worth while money-making projects have been held to enable these projects to become finalized. The current philanthropic activity is the annual Style Show for the Crippled Children Center in Peoria. All proceeds from this show are given to the center.

### WASHINGTON REGISTERED NURSES CLUB

The Washington Registered Nurses' Club, a local group with no state or national affiliation, was organized in 1943 by seven nurses. These charter members were: Mrs. Edna Ficht, Mrs. Sally Cadwell, Mrs. Mina Summer, Mrs. Helen Naffziger, Mrs. Catherine Funk, Mrs. Catherine Hultgren, and Mrs. Faye Clymore. At the time of organization, most of the club members were on the nursing staff of the Washington Hospital, located on Holland Street.

The only fund raising projects the group has is its annual dues and two auctions per year. From these donations are given to various worthy causes, such as the contribution for the new Rescue Squad Ambulance. Also, a scholarship fund has been set up for worthy senior nursing students. The nurses also volunteer their



time to assist with the local schools' immunization program and the Bloodmobile Program each year. This club meets eight times a year with an average attendance of twenty to twenty-five nurses.

### P. E. O. SISTERHOOD

On January 21, 1869, seven girls founded the P. E. O. Sisterhood on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. The original membership of seven has grown to 183,030 in United States and Canada, of which 15,116 reside in Illinois.

The Sisterhood is a philanthropic and educational organization. In addition to owning and operating Cottey College, a two year accredited liberal arts Women's college at Nevada, Missouri, the Sisterhood's projects include the International Peace Scholarship, the Educational Fund, the P. E. O. Foundation, and for Illinois P. E. O.'s, the home at Knoxville.



P. E. O. came to Washington on March 20, 1950, with the organization of Chapter HG. To date there are 34 resident members and 9 nonresident members.

### PARENT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The Washington Parent Teachers' Association started in the early 1940's and was quite active. Records are unavailable until 1956. At that time the PTA was an organization made up of parents of both grade and high school.

Meetings were held every month with a variety of programs. The first recorded meeting was held at the home of Loren Abbott.

In 1970 it was decided to split the PTA into two separate organizations, one for the high school and one for both Lincoln and Washington grade schools. The number of meetings per year was changed to six.

Each year a money-making project is held to purchase needed items for the schools. Some of the accomplishments to their credit are: band uniforms; equipment for

the high school library listening center; a new piano; drinking fountains; bicycle racks; playground equipment; various library and learning center supplies; and new drapes for Washington Grade school gym. These money-making projects are still being held, with the money split evenly between the two grade schools.

Objectives for the PTA are:

1. To promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, church, and community.
2. To raise the standards of home life.
3. To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
4. To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child.
5. To develop between educators and the general public such united effort as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

Some of the past presidents are: Mr. and Mrs. Loren Abbott; Mr. and Mrs. Ohmar Wegrich; Mr. Dwight Parker; Mrs. Nordling; Mr. William Morris; Mr. Maurice Young; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brandt; Mr. Charles Keeran; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Day; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Masters; Mr. Warner; Mrs. Frye; Mr. Dygert; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Brown; Mr. and Mrs. Marion Sizemore; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Marshall; Mrs. Sally MacDonald; and Mrs. Carolyn McLaughlin.

## WASHINGTON UNIT 11 OF TAZEWELL COUNTY HOME EXTENSION

In February, 1945, the Washington Unit 11 of Tazewell County Home Extension was organized. At that time it was called Home Bureau, and there were nine Charter members. Two are still members of the Unit: Mrs. Laverne Eilers and Mrs. Merle Eilers. We were a small and close group in the early days of our Unit. We all brought our small children and had several potlucks through the season. The children would play in the center of the room while the meeting was conducted.

We are very active in crafts; when crafts are offered to the Unit, almost everyone participates. We help with the 4H Fair, and some of our ladies have been leaders for several years. On March 20, 1946, we started sewing cancer bandages and hospital gowns from old sheets and white shirts. We have continued this, and at this time we meet one day a month to sew. In 1950, the Unit made and donated a United Nations Flag to the Washington Grade School. We donate to the South Side Mission at holidays. We give to the various local drives, along with supporting the fund for a PTA Award for the local schools. The Recreational Association of Washington also receives our support.

We have breakfast one morning a month to keep our treasury supplied with funds for our various expenses through the year. This started as a surprise "Galloping" breakfast in 1951. In looking through the files, we find

the first mention of an annual banquet starting on August 31, 1955. This is one of our special activities of the year, and we usually have a speaker. On September 29, 1955, the Unit voted to change our meeting from the last Wednesday of the month to the first Thursday of the month.

We have had many close associations through the years. Many of our members have moved to other states, but we still remember the warm friendships that we have shared and feel as if we have gained much by being organized in a friendly and worthwhile organization, Home Extension.



The Extension Homemaker's Creed — "We believe in the present and its opportunities, in the future and its promises, in everything that makes life large and lovely, in the divine joy of living and helping others; so we endeavor to pass on to others that which has benefited us, striving to go onward and upward, reaching the pinnacle of economic perfection, in improving, enlarging, and endearing the greatest institution in the world, THE HOME". The past presidents are: Mesdames - Orville Kamp, Tillman Ficht, Elmer Faubel, Harold Faubel, Richard Scott, Merle Eilers, Laverne Eilers, Evelyn Schilt, Glen Eilers, Don Knabe, Lynn Doremus, Herman Moyer, Donald Conner, Delmar Knecht, Herbert Sharp, Richard Riehl, Frank Hoog, Franklin Jones, John Schwarzen-  
traub, Gene Aberle, George Johnson, Ben Smith, Elmer Zimmerman, Parker Jero, Bertil Nordhelm, John McCoy, Charles Hagen, and Clifford Smith.

## NEWCOMERS CLUB

In 1949 Mrs. Clarence (Sylvia) Hammond established a community club to promote neighborhood friendship. The seven original club members were restricted to a one-year membership, and they met in members' homes. Today the organization has grown to eighty members, who are eligible for five years of active membership and who meet monthly at the Washington State Bank. It is interesting to note that the monthly club meeting has remained the second Thursday of the month at 7:45 P.M. from September thru May.

During these twenty-five years the organization developed by-laws and regulations governed by four elected officers and nine appointed chairmen. The general membership is structured with new Washington and area residents who take an active role in supporting community projects as well as becoming friends as new neighbors, thus adopting the club name of Newcomers



Club. One special project is the financial and voluntary support of the Peoria Association of Retarded Children (PARC). Other club functions include the annual President's open house, informal coffees, pinocle and bridge marathons, family picnics, style shows and couples' evening parties which may include a hayride and square dance.

Over the years Newcomers has changed through the thoughts and minds of past presidents and members, but one thought has remained; our club goal is making friends.

Five of the original seven are living in this area: Mrs. Clarence Hammond in Eureka, Illinois; Mrs. Edward Essig, Mrs. Lester Novy, Mrs. John Heiser, Mrs. Frank Wilson all in Washington.

#### **WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FEDERATED WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB**

The purpose of the club is to advance the best interests of the State and Nation through the agency of the Republican Party and to uphold and promote Republican principles by educational and political activities and to assist in the election of Republican candidates to office.



The Republican women of the Washington area have long been known to have one of Tazewell County's oldest and strongest organized groups, working together

to elect Republican candidates. It was not until the spring luncheon in 1965 held at Rider's Town House that the women voted to become affiliated with the National Federation of Republican Women.

Prior to becoming a part of the National organization, the written records of the work done by these dedicated women appear to be few. This has made it necessary to rely on the memories of some of the early leaders for a history of the club.

It was at least thirty years ago that the women were sponsoring public events to bring political aspirants here to meet with the "grass root" voters. The names of political personalities the club brought here are many.

Some of the projects supported by the club include a contribution to the Everett Dirksen Library at Pekin and the purchase of a place setting of china for the Governor's Mansion at Springfield.

The present membership in the club is 102.

During the existence of the club it appears that only nine women have held the office of president. The first president, according to recollection was Mrs. George (Ethel) Storey. She was followed by Mrs. Rae C. Heiple, Mrs. Roy Swan, Mrs. Donald Guedet, and Mrs. Jack Potter, all serving prior to becoming federated.

Following the federation of the club, the presidents were Mrs. Harry Ward, Jr., Mrs. Kenneth Black, Mrs. Robert Hult, and Mrs. Lyle Hunziker.

The club is open to all women interested in the purposes of the club.

#### **TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDENERS**

In the spring of 1958, a group of eighteen ladies with a common interest in flowers and gardening got together to form a club. They voted to become a part of the Federated Garden Clubs of Illinois. Their goals were to advance the members' knowledge and skill of flower culture, appreciation of the beauty of flowers and plants, and to encourage civic beauty and roadside beautification.



One of their outstanding local projects was the beautifying of the city square, including the drive to build a fountain to replace the old bandstand. The fountain was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1963.

The first president was Mrs. James Shinneman, followed by the late Mrs. Katie Kinsinger. The group has a limited membership of twenty-five and of the present members seven are charter members.

The present civic projects are helping the Park Board with the landscaping of the new City Park on Lincoln Rd. and the planting around the new swimming pool.

### THE ILLINOIS VALLEY UNIT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

The Illinois Valley Unit of the National Association and the Illinois Association of Parliamentarians was organized by the State President, Mrs. William Collins, on July 17, 1961, in the home of Mrs. David Snell, sponsor of the unit. On August 4, 1961 the unit was chartered by the National Association of Parliamentarian's President, Mrs. Herberta Ann Leonardy.



Mrs. David Snell, the thirteenth person to become a registered Parliamentarian in the State of Illinois, taught Parliamentary classes which formed the unit.

Charter members of the Illinois Valley Unit were: Mesdames E. J. H. Bentz, W. C. Cadwell, L. C. Cox, F. E. Jones, W. W. Kimmell, Alan Mann, Carl Maxwell, Ira Miller, David Snell, O. L. Sundstrom, H. J. Vogelsang, C. E. Woodruff, and Miss Helen Tomm. The first officers of the Illinois Valley Unit were: Mesdames David Snell, President; W. W. Kimmell, Vice President; H. J. Vogelsang, Secretary; and C. E. Woodruff, Treasurer.

The stated purpose of the organization is to work in harmony with the National Association of Parliamentarians, to promote interest in and study of parliamentary procedure, to interest deliberative groups in the application of principles of parliamentary procedure in their organizations, to encourage an interest in parliamentary procedure in both elementary and secondary schools, and to provide opportunities for the study of parliamentary procedure.

The Illinois Valley Unit entertained the Illinois Association of Parliamentarians' Convention three times,

beginning in 1964 when Mrs. David Snell was the State President. Other members of the unit who have served as state officers were: Mrs. L. F. Kerr, Mrs. C. E. Woodruff, and Mrs. W. W. Kimmell.

In 1963 The Illinois Valley Unit sponsored an Institute for persons interested in Parliamentary procedure. The members of the Unit have assisted and continue to advise area organizations in Parliamentary procedure. Meetings are held from September through May with lessons conducted by members. Visitors are always welcome.

### BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

The Washington Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., was chartered February 24, 1968, with thirty members. It is affiliated with the State and National Federation, which is the largest organization of working women. Our objectives are to elevate the standards of working women. Anyone actively engaged in business or a profession is eligible for membership.

Our local project has been an annual contribution to the PARC Chorus. We are active in local affairs and civic projects as well as those on the state and national level.

Our membership now is fifty-three. We meet the first Monday night of every month. The Past Presidents are: Helen Moynan, Ann Blumenshine, Marguerite Wallace, Barbara Hickam, and Carol Andris.



### TAZWOOD ART LEAGUE

The Tazwood Art League was founded on June 8, 1970, by Joanne Blender, Judith Wilkerson, and Joanne



Bell. The goal of the organization is to have two shows and a sale annually and to make information available to members on area shows and sales.

The organization has quarterly meetings which include demonstrations by a member or a guest speaker on some phase of painting.

Membership is open to all interested persons. Most members are hobby artists, although there are a few professionals. The annual \$5.00 dues are used to defray the cost of the shows.

### **F. R. P. WOMAN'S AUXILIARY**

The Fireman's Woman's Auxiliary was originated by Leri Slonneger on May 9, 1972. At this time they decided to ask the Rescue Squad wives if they would also like to join the Auxiliary. In January, 1973 the policemen's wives were asked to join so the name was again changed to the Fireman, Rescue, and Police (F. R. P.) Woman's Auxiliary. The Auxiliary meets the first Tuesday of each month at the fire house with community service being the main goal of the group.



Bake sales are held at least three times a year along with various other projects. The Auxiliary helps with the annual Fire and Rescue Open House in the fall by serving refreshments. Emergency phone numbers have been placed in the windows of all Washington business places in case of an after-hour emergency. This helps the Fire, Rescue, and Police Departments.

The Auxiliary has had and will continue to have house numbers available for anyone who would like to have them for a small donation to the Auxiliary. Stop and Think!! If you were to have an emergency, do you have a house number the fire, rescue, or police can easily see?? This could mean the difference of life or death!

The women also provide coffee and refreshments for the men during fires.

One of the many goals of the F. R. P. Woman's Auxiliary is to make the people of Washington more familiar with our Fire, Rescue, and Police Departments in case there is an emergency.

Leri Slonneger has been the Auxiliary President for two years.

### **WASHINGTON YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL**

In 1973 Mayor Thomas Boyd appointed a Steering Committee to study the need for a Washington Youth Guidance Council. This committee pursued studies that resulted in an ordinance creating the Washington Youth Guidance Council in the summer of that same year. The committee also drafted bylaws for the Council. Members of the committee were: Pastor Francis W. Johnson, LaVerne E. Blumenshine, City Administrator Rod Clausen, James Dougherty, and James Funk.

Mayor E. E. Habecker, Jr., who succeeded Mayor Boyd, appointed Pastor Francis W. Johnson, LaVerne E. Blumenshine, Mrs. Wayne Kinsinger, Miss Frances Whittaker, and Dr. Roy J. Wright of Illinois Central College to the Washington Youth Guidance Council.

The stated purpose of this Council is: "To offer counseling service, at its discretion to youths who are referred to and by schools, police and courts, churches, parents, and other agencies that may wish to refer youths with problems.

### **PI EPSILON CHAPTER OF BETA SIGMA PHI SORORITY**

Beta Sigma Phi celebrated the forty-third anniversary of the organization's founding on April 30, 1974. The first chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority was formed in Abilene, Kansas. There are now approximately 10,500 chapters and 225,000 members in the United States, Canada, twenty-three foreign countries and territories, with the International Headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas.

Pi Epsilon Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi was organized on June 1, 1969 in Washington with nine active members after splitting from the Washington-Metamora Omicron Lambda Chapter. Pi Epsilon Chapter received its Charter from the Executive Council of Beta Sigma Phi on January 6, 1970 upon having ten or more qualified members. Pi Epsilon Chapter consists of twenty members as of May 15, 1974.

The purpose of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority is to enrich its members' lives culturally and socially. Its members also experience the joy of helping others through the chapter's service programs. Membership is transferable from one chapter to another chapter upon request.





## GIRL SCOUTING

Before Girl Scouting began in Washington, we learned that there were Campfire girls in 1916-17-18, at which time Mrs. Viola Risser was a member, with Mrs. Laura Payne as the leader.



Mrs. Ethel Morrow Storey organized a Girl Scout Troop in 1924. She was the leader, known as captain then, until sometime in 1926. She recalls twenty-four seventh and eighth grade girls in her first troops. They met in the room above the old hotel building, later City Hall. They also met where the Habecker Funeral Home is now. The Troop kept quite active, such as camping at Mackinaw Dells.

The Patrol system was used. They studied materials for requirements, not the same as the present day badges.

Marching in the Memorial Day Parades and being drilled for marching by Mr. Fred Swietzer, they participated in the Centennial Celebration. They loved parties and always looked for an excuse to have one. Money-making projects included socials, cookouts, candy sales and collecting old newspapers.

Mrs. Storey (age 93) recalls these girls being in her troop: Blanche Dingleline Esser, Gertie Ochenrider Kimmell, Alice Kimmell Snell, Helen Habecker Waldeck, Vera Voglesang Ruble, Dorothy Small Borgardus (deceased), Kathryn Inhoff LaSalle, Katherine Spring Funk, Ethel Bradle Brown, Alice Bradle Barton, Anna Handschu Sullivan, Kathleen Danforth McDougal, and Elizabeth Storey. Eleanor Jenkins and Margaret Belsey Triebel (deceased) were the assistant leaders.

There seems to be a period of inactivity in Girl Scouting until 1934 when Mrs. Hill possibly re-started a Girl Scout Troop of thirty-three to thirty-five girls. The meeting places were first in Mrs. Hill's home and later in the old City building. Assistant leaders were Gladys Muller and Eleanor Steimle Muller. They sang a lot because they liked to sing. They learned to tie knots and code with flags (semaphore). They took part in Memorial Day parades. Some of the members were: LaVerne Esser Blumen-shine, Gwen Hepler Kubley, Lucille Orth Schmidt, Dorothy Slonneger Beenders, Jean Dunnington Morris, Anna Mae Kimping Zimmerman, Ethel Hartman Scott, Shirley Norris Pudik, Doris Spring Kunard, Rachel Smith, Harriett Land Brown, and Libby Imhoff Bradle Garrison.

In 1938 the Washington Area Council of Girl Scouts was fortunate to have Mrs. Kenneth (Edith) Black as a leader. She tells us that they met above what is now the Knit Shop. Their registration money was sent directly to National Headquarters. Mrs. Black received the Thank Badge, highest award in the council in 1954 for her numerous tasks of leadership through the years.

When Mrs. Winifred (Virginia) Himmel moved to Washington, she was a troop leader in 1941 with Mrs. Wilbur (LaVerne) Habben as assistant until 1943. They met in the old Primary School building where the Professional building stands; they also met in the Legion room (Scout Room) in the old City Building. She recalls twelve or more girls in her troop. The badges were different and the leaders attended training sessions. Uniforms were khaki-colored and made from a regulation Girl Scout uniform pattern. They were button-down-the-front type. Mrs. Paul Smith was Neighborhood Chairman at this time.



Mrs. Russell (Esther) Planck has been involved in every phase of Scouting leadership in Washington Area Council and Kickapoo Council. She started the first Brownie Troop in Washington in 1947, and most of those girls continued with her through eighth grade and possibly beyond that. Mrs. James (Jane) Putman was one of the many leaders in this decade also.

Mrs. Ira Miller has been active in many phases of Girl Scouting also. Along with Verla Miller, Edith Black, and Esther Planck we noted other multi-duty leaders over the years. Mrs. Herman (Millie) Moyer, Mrs. Clarence (Dorothy) Bradle, Mrs. John (Doris) Stone (who became a professional scouter in 1960), Mrs. Emil (Helen) Mosny, Mrs. Ted (Virginia) White, Mrs. Edward (Jeanne) Essig, Mrs. William (Winifred) Ebert, and many others too numerous to mention have extended their services into the 1960's.

Washington was known in Girl Scouting organization as the Washington Neighborhood of Girl Scouting and later Washington Area Council before joining with six counties to make up the Kickapoo Council in Peoria on January 1, 1951.

In March, 1956 Washington ordered and sold three hundred cases of cookies on the Square. Although cookie

orders were taken before, Washington was part of this order-taking project for the first time in 1957.

In May, 1957 Camp Tapawingo was dedicated near Metamora. Linda Ellenwood, age 8, named the camp, which means "Place of Joy".

A few of the leaders in the era of the 60's were Mrs. Deanne (Fanny) McCoy, who began with a group of girls in 1959, and eleven of these girls continued on into Senior Scouting with her as leader until 1967. Her troop took a trip to the Indiana-Michigan Sand Dunes and camped there two summers in a row, using the cookie sales' profits to finance their trips. At least three of her girls attended Round-up and Jr. Round-up, as did a few other girls in Washington.

Many activities have kept the girls busy and interested. Some of the highlights of the years include camping, working on the badges, back packing, hiking, bicycling, roller skating, canoeing, Dad's Date Night. Mother-Daughter teas, ditty bags for Pekin Red Cross, many projects for Project Concern, tray favors and adopting an older person at the nursing homes, Doll Shop, PARC, Zeller Zone, writing and presenting plays and skits, Sparkling Waterways Clean-ups, weaving for Tri-Centennial, numerous trips, and horseback riding.

Mrs. Charles (Sue) Thomas had a Junior troop for a year or two. Other leaders over the years were: Mrs. Herman (Milly) Moyer, Mrs. Adeline Martins, Mrs. Merle (Margaret) Eilers, Mrs. Glen (Pat) Housch, Mrs. Dan (Diane) Hoover, and many others who have spent countless hours in service to the girls in Washington.

The 1970's have brought Scouting many more leaders and girls too numerous to mention. Scouting in Washington Neighborhood of Kickapoo Council now includes a Neighborhood chairman and vice chairman, a secretary, and four school organizers for the seventeen troops. There are thirty-seven to forty leaders and approximately three hundred girls as of May 1, 1974. More information may be found in the Washington Public Library.

## BOY SCOUTS IN WASHINGTON

The first scouting unit in Washington was Troop 62, organized in 1924. Nate Crabtree was Scoutmaster, and they met in Dunnington barn, the present site of the Firehouse. Upon request by the owner, they later moved to Kern's barn at about 109 Catherine Street.

Apparently affiliation with the Creve Coeur Council started for Troop 62 in 1929. Frederick E. Sweitzer served as Scoutmaster, and they met in the old City Building at about 141 Washington Square. The Kiwanis Club was the sponsoring organization.

O. H. Carmen served as Scoutmaster from about 1931 to 1933. In 1932 the City Council was the sponsoring organization for two years. James W. D. Hill was Scoutmaster from 1932 to 1936. The American Legion Post #100 was the guiding organization from 1934 to 1936.



A Home Patrol was formed for one year in 1936 with Cy Broadstone as the leader.

A group of citizens were the sponsors for the troop from 1937 to 1943. Gilbert Gross served as Scoutmaster, and they continued to meet in the City Building.

The Washington Civic Association took over sponsorship from the years of 1943 to 1956. The following Scoutmasters served through this time: Mark Howard, Dr. Wayne J. Kinsinger, Donald L. Diebel, Harold Sieg, Clayton Smith and Dick Jafford. Troop 62 dissolved at this time.

Cub Pack #62 was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club in 1938 and Max Cooper was Cubmaster. The Mother's Organization was the guiding club for the Pack from 1945 to 1949. D. C. McMillan and Lawrence Huckins served as Cubmasters. American Legion Post #100 sponsored the Pack from 1950 to 1953, and Paul Prutsman and Richard Van Pelt were the leaders.

The Men's Club of the Presbyterian Church carried the Pack from 1953-1958. Richard Van Pelt, Howard Tunnell, Donald Frank and Harry Ward were Cubmasters.

Troop 163 was organized in 1949 with the Methodist Church as the sponsoring organization. They meet in the Methodist Church. Scoutmasters who have served with the troop are: A. W. Montgomery, Lowell Peck, Merle Reed, Roland Hughes, H. M. Kiley, Jack MacLaren, David Greer, Robert Ahlgren and F. O. Koch. The present Scoutmaster is Dave Doremus.

Explorer Post 163 of the Methodist Church was in existence from 1950 to 1967. Advisors were Russell Planck, Alvin Montgomery, Donald Smith, Robert Ahlgren, William Kellow, Frank Koch, Eugene Plouzek, Steve Mason and Ron Nieu Kirk.

Cub Pack 163 was organized in the Methodist Church in 1950. Cubmasters have been Claude Wilson, Paul Dearth, Charles T. White, Robert Reeves, Ralph Gaumer, Alan McLees, H. E. Bunton, John Adler, Francis Andrews, Robert Ahlgren, Dwight Parken, Don Sunderlin, James C. Hengst, Donald Harris and Dave Doremus. Present Cubmaster is Charles Pyle.

Troop 164 was organized in 1949 by St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Scoutmasters have been Charles Dillard, Paul Dearth, Glen Benway, Herbert Nelson, William Dick, Robert Alt, and present Scoutmaster Malcolm Kinsinger.

Cub Pack 164 was started in 1950 by St. Mark's Church. Cubmasters have been Lowell Peck, Frederick Beyer, Lowell Amdor, Merton Koch, William Dragoon, Rolla Nieu Kirk, Dr. Robert Sullivan, Robert McFeeters, H. G. Millard, Elmer Spring, Donald Davison, and present Cubmaster Richard Eichelkraut.

Explorer Post 164 was organized in 1969 by St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Advisors have been Steve Mason and Ron Nieu Kirk, and Robert Watts is serving at the present time.

Troop 168 was started by St. Patrick's Holy Name Society in 1953. Scoutmasters have been R. H. Hunger, S. J. Schmidt, Robert C. Howell, Robert Fink, Lester Novy, and John McGlaughlin.

Cub Pack 168 organized by St. Patrick's in 1954 has had the following Cubmasters: James L. Schmidt, James Slaughter, Robert Fink, Lars Bakken, Daniel Afeld, Alva Edgar, David Covert, Wm. R. Ziegler, Donald Wispeleare, Paul Zuckerman and Phillip J. Millar, the present Cubmaster.

The following boys have achieved the highest honor in Scouting, an Eagle Award: Theodore Roehm, Troop 62, 1944; David Harget, Troop 62, 1944; Dale Montgomery, Post 163, 1956; Allen W. Wilson, Troop 163, 1959; John A. McLees, Troop 163, 1963; Malcolm Kinsinger, Troop 163, 1963; Michael Kinsinger, Troop 163, 1963; David R. Novy, Troop 168, 1963; John P. Marlin, Troop 168, 1964; Michael Marlin, Troop 168, 1964; Gary W. Ahlgren, Troop 163, 1965; Larry Felthauer, Troop 163, 1965; Donald Guimond, Troop 168, 1965; Douglas Abernathie, Troop 163, 1965; Allen L. Ravenscraft, Troop 168, 1966; Dennis Guimond, Troop 168, 1966; Frederick J. McGlaughlin, Troop 168, 1967; Gary Guimond, Troop 168, 1970; Gerald A. Novy, Troop 168, 1971; Alan C. Diehl, Jr., Troop 163, 1972; Kevin Elliott, Troop 163, 1973; James R. Stevens, Troop 163, 1973; David R. Hunt, Troop 164, 1973; and Paul A. Kinsinger, Troop 164, 1973.

Washington has been fortunate to have had four men selected for the Silver Beaver Award: Russell Planck, W. Cuyler vanDyck, Wm. F. Keely, and A. S. McKloskey. This award is given for outstanding service to a citizen in the entire Council area.

The scouting program in Washington will be remembered by all of those who have participated. It could be for the paper drives of the 1920's and 30's to get money to go to Scout Camp. It might be for going down

the tracks to "Goat Springs" to pass a cooking and path-finding requirement. For those in the 1920's, going to Scout Camp at Bath, Illinois, and learning to swim in the Illinois River were typical. Usually these boys had learned to swim at the "Dam" if you lived in the south or west part of town, or at "Red Tip" if you lived in the east part of town.

Camp Wokanda at Mossville, Illinois, was developed in the 1930's. Here boys will remember drinking "sky juice" at the mess hall; the usual tricks that happen at camp; and, of course, the final bonfire on the last night of camp. Many boys from Washington have been inducted into the Order of the Arrow by this time. These facilities have been developed to give a much more complete experience in scouting.



The Cub Packs can best be remembered for the Pine-wood Derby and the parent's night potlucks. Surely, we cannot forget the "Den Mothers" and their devoted service.

The scouts in Washington have served our community well, and a most generous thank you should be extended to all who have made this program a success.

#### **TAYLOR LODGE NO. 98 A. F. & A. M.**

The first meeting of a Masonic Lodge in Washington was called at 2:00 P.M. on the 27th day of December 1850. The Lodge was called Washington Lodge under dispensation and was so called until October 5, 1851, when a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Illinois; it was the 98th Lodge chartered in this state, and the name Taylor Lodge was adopted. The name was probably that of some man who had been prominent in Masonry, but little could be found on anyone by that name in any of the Masonic encyclopedias.

The charter members at the first meeting were John T. Jones; who was elected the first Worshipful Master, Haven Peirce — Senior Warden, R. W. Maywhirter — Junior Warden, Jazen Sickler — Secy., John Galey, and Elisha Haines. Mr. N. Brown and Mr. Amos Brown were visitors from another Lodge at the first meeting.

Brethren Sickler, Maywhirter, and Peirce were appointed as a committee on bylaws and recommended that the Bylaws of Peoria Lodge No. 15 be adopted as

Bylaws for the new Lodge. Between December, 1850, and October, 1851, nine more members were added and were members when the charter was granted. Mr. James H. Miles was the first new member initiated; David Kern, James Huggins, C. S. N. Anthony, S. T. Graham, John H. Anthony, Elias Wenger, James T. Wathan, and J. W. Parish were the others.

From the minutes of the May 17, 1872, meeting there was a bill presented by Brother Peter B. Smith for \$1.50 for transferring coal and cleaning spittoons.

A search has been unable to identify where the first Lodge Hall was located; but in September, 1891, the Lodge built a third floor on a two-story building located behind the present Heiple Building and was owned by the father of Brother Rae C. Heiple. They remained there until January, 1923, when they rented the second floor of the then new Esser Building over what is now the V & S Hardware Store. They remained there fifty years, until constructing the present building on Wilmor Road, which was occupied in April, 1973.



One of the members who contributed much time to Taylor Lodge was Brother G. A. "Al" Brunnenmeyer, who was secretary from 1923 until his death in 1965, except for two years when he was a Warden and Master of the Lodge. One of our oldest members in this area is Brother Robert Smith at the Washington Nursing apartments. Our present Master is C. A. Taylor; we have thirty-two living Past Masters: P. E. Gerken, C. W. Hagen, R. W. Brown, D. E. Lee, M. D. Lee, D. G. Ownes, C. J. Coone, R. M. Rentfro, R. Nunley, E. E. Kuykendall, H. Bess, R. L. Underwood, E. F. Hagan, P. W. Luthy, A. R. Carman, R. F. DeLay, G. R. Rose, J. A. Wilson, H. Poderman, M. J. Sprague, L. C. Imbler, W. A. Crist, W. H. Turley, N. H. Scharp, T. L. Lytle, R. C. Heiple, C. P. Blumenshine, H. L. Heitzman, R. K. Ebert, W. B. Morris, G. H. Rinkenberger, and R. W. Miller.

We have the complete minutes from 1871 to the present, but many of them are handwritten and hard to read.

## WASHINGTON CHAPTER #115 ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

The Washington Chapter #115 of the Order of the Eastern Star was chartered on March 30, 1888 with the first meeting being held on April 11, 1888. The first meetings were held in the Heiple Building, located on the



east side of North Main Street and which now has become a parking lot. This building was the only one in town with three floors and was known as the "sky scraper". This was built by Eli Heiple, the grandfather of Mr. Rae Heiple, a resident of Washington.

The first Worthy Patron was Dr. James F. Hoover and the first Worthy Matron was Mrs. Emeline S. Hoover. Mr. Chas. Rapp was secretary. Meetings were held on the first Wednesday of each month until April, 1906, when the night was changed to the first Friday of each month. This has remained the same over the years. In 1923 the Chapter moved to the second floor of the Esser Building, located on the west side of the Square. Meetings were held in this location until the Masons completed a new Masonic Hall, located on Wilmor Road, in 1973.

There are several fifty-year members living in this area and also one member living in Peoria, Miss Gertrude Wilson, who was initiated into the Chapter in March, 1903. The members are wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters, and granddaughters of Masons, striving to benefit mankind.

The aim is to maintain the high principles set for the organization in 1888 by the founders of the Chapter.

The National Order of the Eastern Star is now one hundred years old.

The Past Matrons' Club was organized November 14, 1936, by eleven Past Matrons. First officers of the Club were Mrs. Mable Malone Kastien, president, and Mrs. Hattie Burkey, secretary and treasurer. Requirement for membership is service as Worthy Matron of Washington Chapter Order of Eastern Star; when finished, the officer is welcomed into the club. This is a social club with at least four regular meetings each year. The purpose is to help the local Chapter of Eastern Star.

Projects are: to send helpful items to our two Eastern Star Homes at Rockford, Illinois and Macon, Illinois. These two homes are for the elderly ladies who are members of Eastern Star. An annual Christmas Party for members and husbands is held each year. The present membership is thirty-five members. The officers for 1974 and 1975 are Mrs. Agnes Dorward, president and Mrs. Grace Carman, secretary-treasurer.

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 100

The Washington Post of the American Legion was organized in the spring of 1919, and a Charter was applied for August 19, 1919.



Fred E. Sweitzer was appointed as temporary chairman and Ralph Swallow as temporary secretary. There two men later were elected to serve in the capacity of the first commander and the first secretary for year, 1920. There are no records available from this point until March 3, 1926, except the names of commanders.

The first regular meetings of the Post were held at various places, such as the Civic Club Room, Council Room, and the City Hall, all in the old City Building. The May 4, 1927 regular meeting and those that followed were held upstairs in the City Building in the Legion Room. This meeting room was presented to the Post by the city, and was used by the Post until the present building was finished in 1949. In October, 1939 a frame building was erected on a plot of land leased from the Joseph Reeser farm at the forks of the road west of town. A few of the regular meetings were held there, but the property was used mainly for the annual Trap Shoots and other activities.

In January, 1947 the Post was notified that the land had been sold, and the Post building, known as the Chateau, was sold. A search was started to find a new location for the Post's home. In 1949 the twenty-one-acre timber tract was purchased from Ben Pfeiffinger, and the present Legion Quonset was erected, where all present activities have taken place.

The first markers for the Veterans' graves in the local cemetery were purchased in 1926, and Memorial Services were held at various graves on Memorial Day. On June 15, 1953 the Washington Council approved a motion that, as long as the American Legion Post exists in the City of Washington and conducts Memorial Day Services, they may use the plat of ground where the Memorial Services have been held since 1956.

One of the activities of the Legion was the scrap drive in 1942. Some one hundred-two tons of scrap iron were salvaged, and the proceeds were given to the Defense Council of the American Legion for the China Relief Drive. In 1948 the Post engaged in a drive to collect money to purchase hospital equipment, loaned to Mrs. Raymond Lasance, to be used at the Washington Nursing Home.

In 1929 a Drum and Bugle Corps was organized with twenty members. This group was quite active for several years, participating in many conventions, activities locally, and within the division.

In June, 1955 a firing squad was organized, and in 1956 uniforms were purchased. The squad has taken part in many local funerals and parades. This squad is now known as the Post Color Guard and has had the honor of escorting the State Governor on Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair on several occasions.

Many activities have been sponsored by the Legion and Auxiliary, such as the Easter Egg Hunts, Trap Shoots, the annual Fall Festival, and Community Auction. The Fall Festival has been abandoned.

The Sons of the American Legion was organized in December, 1962 with a charter membership of one hundred boys. The Post participates in many programs that are beneficial to the Washington community. They have sent local boys to Boys State; this program teaches young about our form of government. Also, they actually participate in their own campaigns, caucuses, and election of officers.

On Veterans Day, 1964 was the occasion on which the Post and Auxiliary presented the Flag, Flag Pole, and Plaque situated in the City Square, to the City of Washington.

There were sixty-three charter members by August 19, 1919. As far as we know, there are twenty survivors. On November 11, 1964 seventeen of these charter members were honored by the Post and were given life memberships in the Post.

Over fifty years of service to God and Country is quite a long time for a human being to serve. Just because these men and women no longer wear the uniform of their particular branch of the armed forces does not mean they no longer serve. The Legion Cap they wear is a symbol of service. They receive it with respect and they wear it with pride.

There are many hundreds of Veterans who receive benefits and services in medical aid and financial assistance from the American Legion.

The building of a baseball diamond, with the generous help of the Marine Corps, is in progress now and will be ready later this summer.

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #100 was chartered in 1924 with Mrs. Harriet Zinser as the first presi-



dent. The membership on January 31, 1974 is one hundred eighteen senior members. The Junior Auxiliary for daughters, sisters, and granddaughters under eighteen years of age is twenty-two members.

The membership includes women who serve the Washington community in many different ways. At least two of the members have been recipients of the Washington Hatchet Award from the City of Washington.

One compelling purpose binds the auxiliary together, a desire to serve side by side with the American Legion in working for the best interests of America. The fundamental purpose is to help build a stronger America and to inspire in all women who feel a more devoted patriotism.

Monetary contributions to the community and to the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary programs, both state and national, amount to some \$600.00 yearly.

### PAST PRESIDENTS' PARLEY

The Past Presidents' Parley was organized in 1952. The purpose of the Past Presidents' Parley is to continue in active service to the American Legion Auxiliary the women who have served as Unit, Department, and National Presidents. It has no special activities in its charge besides its objective, "The Care of the Disabled Ex-Service Women", unless so assigned by the Unit, Department, or National organization, but gives its support to the entire American Legion Auxiliary program. The training and experience of Past Presidents' can be highly useful in any activity needing special support or emphasis. Past presidents of Past Presidents' Parley are: Mesdames — Lester Blumenshine, Ralph Belsly, Art Belt, Ida Goodyear, Louise Jenkins, Wilma Williams, Mary Joesting, Walter Holland, Georgia Geltmaker, Henry Wiese, Ralph Swallow, Emil Mosny, Glen Eilers, Frances Mooberry, Earl Zimmerman, Harry Ward, Mabel Allen, Rita Nauman, Jack Potter, Charles Wilson, Fern Moberly, E. L. Livingston, Dorothy Belsly, Benj. H. Smith, and Roy Goeker.

### WALKER DANFORTH V. F. W. POST 9016

In March 1967 plans were made for the formation of a veterans' organization, called the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. In May 1967, after much work, the organization was formed and named the Walker Danforth Post after the first Washingtonian killed in World War II. William Forden was nominated and elected the first commander of this new post. The Post received its Charter at the Installation in May at the Washington Community High School with Comrade Tom Russell of Park Ridge as the installing officer. There were over sixty members on the Charter.

The Post held its meetings at the old City Building in a room on the second floor. After the old City Building was demolished, meetings were held at the new City



Building and the new Washington State Bank's Muller Room.

In February, 1972, under the Commander Robert Noirot, with a membership of one hundred twenty, the Post purchased the old Rinkenberger Office Building at 301 West Washington Street. After much remodeling inside it has become the new Post Home. The present membership is one hundred twenty-five.

The objectives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars are fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational: to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States of America and fidelity to its constitution and laws, to foster true patriotism, to maintain and extend the institution of American Freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies.

### WALKER DANFORTH LADIES AUXILIARY POST 9016

Walker Danforth Ladies Auxiliary Post 9016 was instituted in 1968 with twenty-four members. The Auxiliary was named after Walker Danforth, who was the first service man in the Washington area killed in action during World War II.

The Auxiliary is a fraternal, patriotic, historical, and educational organization, to assist the Post and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and our own members families whenever possible.

The Auxiliary has contributed to many National, District, and Community projects. Some are: Christmas gifts for veterans at the Nursing Home, gifts to State Hospital, donations to Kidney Foundation, Cancer Fund, P T A awards, and tornado and food relief. Past presidents are: Maxine Williams, Mary Noirot, Glenna Forden, Kathy Forden, and Grace Sanders.



## VETERANS OF WASHINGTON



William Holland, the first white settler of Washington, was reputed to be a Veteran of the War of 1812. Since his day Washington has been well represented in all of the wars the United States has engaged in.

In the Mexican War of 1846-48, of the total of 78,718 who served, two men from the community were engaged, Thomas Cooper of Cooper Station, and John Norris, grandfather of our ex-postmaster of the same name.

Of the 2,213,363 men who served in the Union Army during the Civil War of 1861-65, about 75 came from the community. During this war doctors were not an integral part of the Army, but served as contract physicians and surgeons. Two of these were Alfred Alphonso, who operated a drug store for many years in the building now occupied by Dr. Antony, and William H. Weirick who practiced medicine here until about 1910. The Veterans of the Civil War organized the Grand Army of the Republic, the first post being established at Decatur, Illinois, on April 6, 1866; and a chapter was formed here with the name of Bogardus Post in honor of a Captain Bogardus, who was an early casualty of the war. The first Decoration or Memorial Day was observed on May 30th, 1868. From then until 1920, the Grand Army was in charge of the parade and ceremonies.

The Union Army consisted almost wholly of volunteers until the last year of conflict, when a form of the draft was instituted; but if the man drafted did not want to go and had money, he could pay someone to take his place. Companies and regiments were recruited locally and the officers were elected by the men. The 47th Illinois Infantry Regiment was commanded by Lieut. Colonel Daniel L. Miles of Washington, who was killed in action on May 9, 1862. He had under him his brother J. B. Miles with the rank of Major, who participated in a number of battles, was wounded and mustered out on October 11, 1864. D. S. Shephard was a captain in the

2nd Illinois Cavalry, was mustered out as a major, and was later Postmaster of Washington. The last surviving veteran of the Civil War was Ike Graves who died about 1936.

306,760 men were recruited for the Spanish American War of 1898. Some of those who served from Washington were Dudley Brown, Lester Wood, a man named Bamber, and Theodore McNutt and son who volunteered together. An organization known as the Spanish American War Veterans was formed, but there were not enough to form a local post.

World War I, 1917-18, was manned by 4,734,991 officers and men, some of whom were allowed to volunteer early in the war, but most were selected by the modern draft system. Junior officers were trained at Officer Candidate Schools for three months. These officers were derisively labelled "90 day wonders" by the enlisted men. One of the schools was at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, which opened May 12, 1917, and graduated enough officers up to the rank of captain and a few majors to officer a complete division, and a Depot Brigade assembled at Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois, on September 1, 1917.

There were about 107 men from Washington in the conflict, and they organized Washington Post #100 American Legion in the summer of 1919. The first assembly of the returned veterans was on the occasion of the funeral of James Berney, a Civil War Veteran on May 2, 1919. In 1920 the American Legion took over from the aging G A R the duties of celebrating Memorial Day. Doctors serving in the Medical Corps during this war were — Major O. P. Bennett, Capt. W. A. Gott, and Lieut. Harley Zinser. Dr. Lee Monroe presumably served in the Corps, but his rank is unknown to the composer of this article.

World War II, 1941-45, was manned by 14,903,213 officers and men. Exact statistics as to those serving from Washington are not available, but there must have been at least 300, probably more. The returned veterans of this war seemed to be satisfied with the record of the American Legion in advocating legislation beneficial to the veteran as most of them joined local Post #100, although there were several minor organizations. The Walker Danforth Post #9016 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which was organized in Washington in 1967, also claimed a large share of World War II and subsequent war returnees. Dr. C. J. Forrette served in the Medical Corps of the Navy and was retired as a Lieutenant Commander at the close of the war.

The Korean War of 1950-53 was served by 5,720,000, but no records are available as to the exact number serving from here. The same is true of the Viet Nam conflict. We know that about as many Americans were killed in the last war as in World War I.

Since World War II the U S A has been the bulwark for the World against aggressive totalitarianism and it has cost us plenty in lives, physical disabilities, and treasure. We hope the World appreciates it.



About 1870



William Roebm



Pleiffer Store

## MISCELLANEOUS PICTURES



Peoria St., West of Square

Above - 1974



Old Post Office



Sunday Morning Outing Bowery Boys

Rugby Team







Halderman's Cubs 1906



T.P. & W. Depot



T.P. & W. Telegraphers

The first train through Washington was the Toledo, Peoria and Western in 1857.

The first class graduated from high school in 1876. Our beloved "Miss Mary" was one of the four students who graduated in this class.



5 Girls of Graduating Class 1903



Reverend Holtgrieve 1900



Building of Cannery Factory 1910



Street Paving



Washington News  
Typesetters

First Washington High School Band



WASHINGTON PARK 1974



1935 Ford Fire Truck



GLENDALE CEMETERY



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Contributing information or assistance

Mrs. Robert Hays  
Mrs. Francis Johnson  
Mrs. Noah Hickman  
Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Kinsinger  
Mr. William McNett  
Mr. Fred Sweitzer  
Mrs. John H. Blumenshine  
Mr. Robert Summer  
Mrs. Clarence Zimmerman  
Mrs. Melvin O. Mochle

Mrs. William Crist  
Mrs. Clayton Summer  
Mrs. C. R. Fahnestock  
Mrs. Alvin Montgomery  
Mr. Kenneth Black  
Mrs. William Tully Jr.  
Mrs. Ola Hughes  
Mr. Richard Scott  
Mr. Mark Heiser  
Mr. Laban Lytle

### Artist

Mrs. Herbert Paul

### Photographer

Mr. Herbert Paul

### Editors

Mrs. Bill Valentine  
Mrs. A. M. Martini

Historical Material

**Picturesque Washington, Illinois**

**Early History of Washington, Illinois**

**History of Washington, Illinois, and Its Early Settlers**

**Atlas of Map of Tazewell County, Illinois**

**History of Tazewell County**

Washington Public Library

Tazewell County Reporter

We appreciate the material furnished by the churches, families, and organizations.  
We apologize for all errors and omissions.

## SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. and Mrs. William Ebert  
Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Kinsinger  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Maxwell  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Summer  
Mrs. Laverne Eilers  
Mrs. Bill Valentine

## PAGEANT

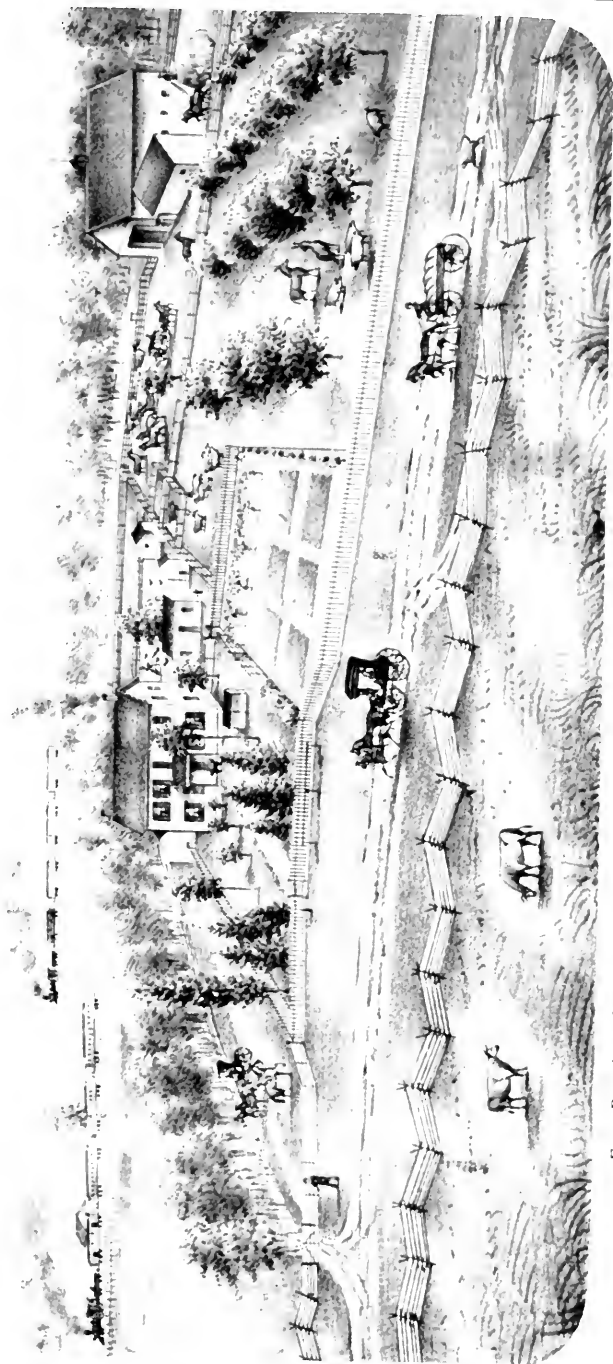
Mrs. Laban Lytle

### ACTIVITIES

July 4, 1975	Arts and Crafts Fair on the square Display of antiques in store windows
July 5, 1975	Washington Pageant at Washington Community High School
July 6, 1975	Old Fashioned Day in the park Band Concert Ice Cream Social Baseball Game Display of Antique Automobiles from Peoria Antique Auto Club

\*\*\*\*\*

“Here we are, here we have been 150 years, and here we continue to strive — in this America in microcosm this fertile land, this unfinished symphony, this Washington.”

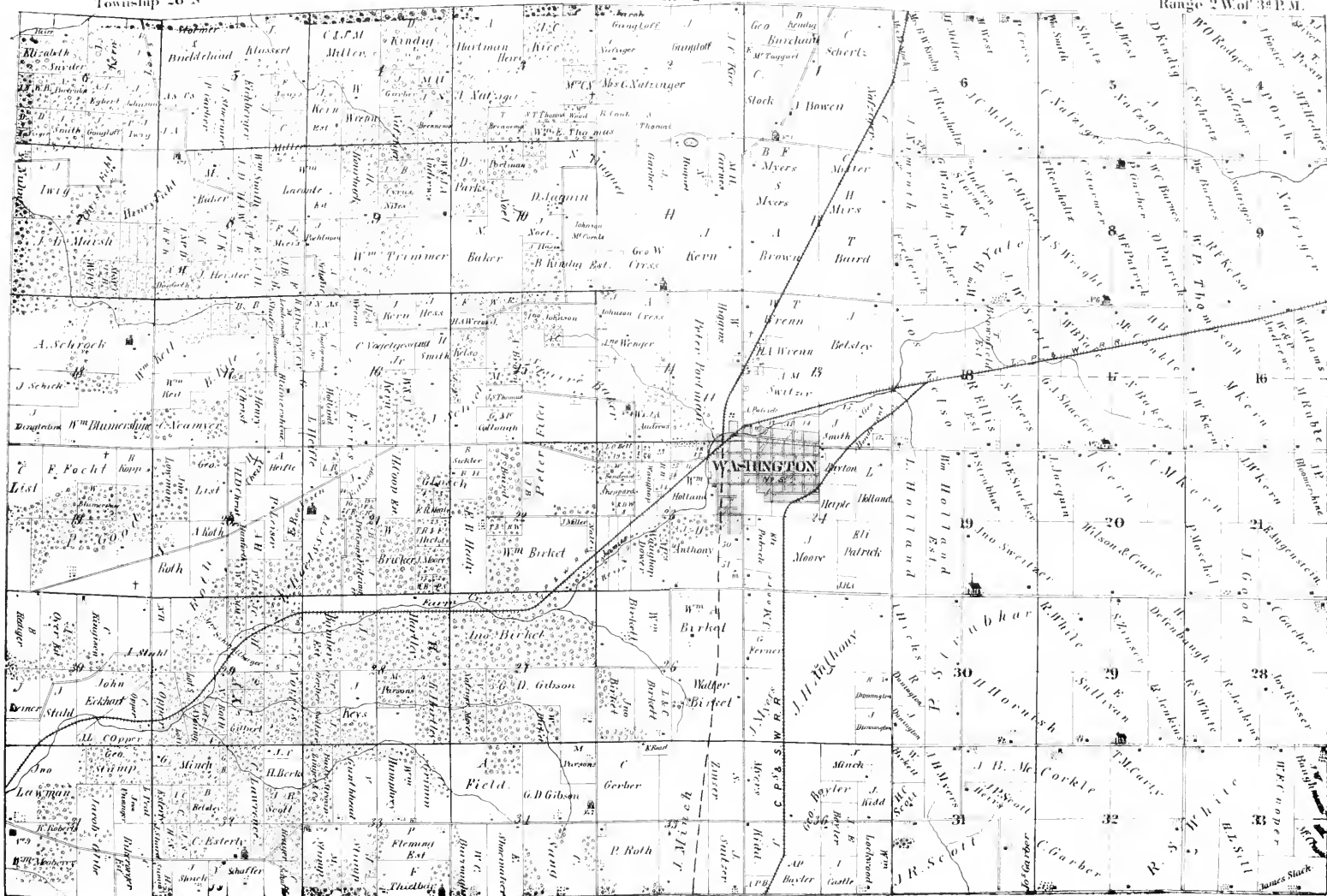


*Farm Premises of JOSEPH KELSO Sec. 18 Washington Tp. 1/2 mile east of Washington Tazewell Co. Ills.*

# ( MAP OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP )

Township 26 N

Range 3 W

 Range 2 W of 3<sup>d</sup> P.M.


**GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE OF THE EARTH  
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS**

Washington was once the bottom of a lake. While rock is near the surface in Peoria and west of that city, it is between 300 and 400 feet below the surface of the land in this section. This would indicate that the land on which we now live was once a great lake over 400 feet deep in spots, which later filled with sand and dirt by glaciers which moved over the country from the north.









UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA  
977.354H6292 C001  
HISTORY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS WASHINGT



3 0112 025392934

